

France offers Israel \$500m loan guarantees

PARIS (R) — France confirmed on Wednesday that it had offered state guarantees worth \$500 million to Israel for housing projects for immigrants. A foreign ministry spokesman told reporters the guarantees would enable French construction firms to build 10,000 homes around Beersheba, the main population centre in the Negev area of southern Israel. First news of the offer came on Tuesday from visiting Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who told Israeli journalists that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had made it. The French spokesman said the guarantees would not be used for work in Israeli-occupied Arab territory. The proposal is the biggest Paris has extended to Israel, surpassing by \$100 million standing guarantees offered by the United States for the same purpose. Relations between France and Israel have been strained over France's efforts to resume ties between the European Community (EC) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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King congratulates Swedish monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to King Carl Gustaf of Sweden to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Sweden's national day. King Hussein expressed his wishes that Jordanian-Swedish relations be enhanced for the best interest of the two peoples and wished King Gustaf good health and happiness and the Swedish people further progress and prosperity.

PLO, Saudi Arabia make 1st contact

TUNIS (R) — Saudi Arabia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on Wednesday had their first official political contact since the end of the Gulf war, the PLO news agency Wafa announced. Wafa said Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO diplomatic head, sent a message to Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, on "the situation in the Arab World and the efforts being deployed to settle Middle East problems." The message was handed to the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Tunis, Ibrahim Assaad Ibrahim.

Iraq reports 64 cholera cases no deaths

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday that 64 cholera cases had been reported in various provinces, but that none of the people affected had died. A health ministry spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency INA, said Baghdad province had the highest figure with 16 cases. The northern mainly Kurdish province of Dahuk came next with 12 cases. "There were no fatalities among those affected and who are now in good health," the spokesman said.

Israelis arrest Gulf peace team

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli authorities arrested 23 members of an international peace group which set out to march from Jerusalem through the occupied West Bank to Amman. Members of the Gulf Peace Team said on Wednesday they were arrested late on Tuesday in the Ramallah area of the occupied West Bank for refusing a police order to leave the area. Kathy Kelly, a coordinator for the group, said authorities detained the 23 for more than four hours and then took them back to Jerusalem. A military spokesman said the marchers had entered a closed military zone and were taken to a police station in Ramallah.

PLO official in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Cairo on Wednesday for talks with Egyptian officials on the Middle East peace process. "The visit is part of the PLO's policy of coordinating and consulting with concerned Arab parties on the peace process," a statement by the PLO information office in Cairo said. Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, has visited Cairo twice since April, apparently to try to mend fences between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Abu Mazen's trip coincided with a surprise visit to Cairo by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Spain lifts food sanction on Iraq

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain has lifted its embargo on food and medicine exports to Iraq, an industry ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Spain's official gazette published a May 31 order lifting the ban on food and medicine exports from a general trade embargo dating to shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, said the spokesman, Angeles Bosch. She said the latest order would take effect Wednesday. It brought Spain into line with its 11 European Community partners, who jointly approved the action at a Brussels meeting on May 7.

3 killed, 9 injured Wednesday; Arab League condemns; Security Council 'may meet'

Israeli warplanes bomb South Lebanon for 3rd day

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla bases in South Lebanon for a third straight day Wednesday, barely 12 hours after mounting their biggest attack in Lebanon in nine years. Police said three fighters were killed and nine wounded in the latest raid that targeted Palestinian and leftist militia bases in hills overlooking the eastern flank of the port city of Sidon. That raised the overall toll of the raids to 22 killed and 82 wounded in 48 hours. Police said the air strikes were evidently aimed at destroying the bulk of the Palestinians' armour around Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

At least three major ammunition dumps and two depots of military vehicles were demolished in the raids, said a police spokesman.

The spokesman said Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), and Palestinian guerrillas fought a one-hour artillery duel in the area after the air raid, but no casualties were reported.

The SLA and Palestinians were seen massing armour on their opposite front lines in the bluffs between Sidon and the SLA-held Christian town of Jezzine.

A police spokesman said four Israeli jets fired six rockets on a base of Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in hills above Sidon's eastern flank at 12:30 a.m. (2130 GMT Tuesday).

Two other rockets blasted a base of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, a leftist Lebanese faction that advocates the merger of Lebanon, Syria,

Jordan, Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait into a "greater Syria." The Israeli military command said air force jets attacked the PFLP-GC base. It said the targets southeast of the port city of Sidon "were hit and all our planes returned safely to base."

By police count, at least 15 people were killed and 62 wounded in Tuesday's, three-hour air assaults, targeting bases of other Palestinian guerrilla factions and the PLO-allied Nasserite leftist Lebanese militia.

The 21-member Arab League Wednesday condemned Israeli air raids into Lebanon saying they were proof Israel did not want peace in the Middle East.

A statement issued by the Cairo-based pan-Arab organisation also urged the United Nations to pressure Israel to withdraw its troops from South Lebanon.

"The Arab League strongly condemns this brutal aggression against innocent civilians, especially women and children," the statement said.

"The Israeli aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity proves to the whole world that Israel is not a peace-loving country and reveals intentions to obstruct efforts aimed at bringing peace to the area."

It urged U.N. action to stop such attacks and to pressure the Jewish state into accepting Security Council Resolution 423 calling on Israel to withdraw its troops from a self-declared "security zone" it patrols in South Lebanon.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said also Wednesday he believed the Security Council would meet

to discuss the latest Israeli air attacks on South Lebanon.

"I think the Security Council will meet but that will depend on the consultations being done by the president of the Security Council," Perez de Cuellar told a news conference in Abuja, Nigeria's future capital.

"I hope the situation will calm down and that there will be no new attacks on Lebanon," Perez, attending a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said.

In Beirut, Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah group marked Tuesday's second anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini with vows to attack Israel and the United States.

Abbas Musawi, Hizbollah's general secretary, told thousands of fundamentalists at the Iranian embassy in Beirut that Muslims should mark the occasion by moving against Washington — "the great Satan."

"To face American and Israeli mobilisation, we are required to mass all our capabilities and efforts," Musawi said to chants of "death to Israel, death to America," from followers of Iran's late revolutionary leader.

"What I am telling you Muslims is that no matter how much America behaves arrogantly and Israel act tyrannically, they will be broken when confronted by the determination of believers," the cleric said.

"God willing, the next few days will prove us right."

The independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar said on Tuesday that Syria and the PLO had reached an agreement in principle on the status of Palestinian fighters in Lebanon and Middle East peace negotiations.

Syria, Egypt agree on urgent need for peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syrian and Egyptian leaders, meeting unexpectedly in Cairo on Wednesday, agreed that there was an urgent need to hold a Middle East peace conference.

"There is total agreement between Egypt and Syria to start the peace process as soon as possible," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said after three hours of talks between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak.

Diplomatic said Assad's previously unannounced visit to Cairo signalled possible flexibility on the part of Damascus over U.S. efforts to convene the first talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours as a group.

They said Egypt and Syria

sought a joint stand to counter any Israeli attempt to throw the blame onto the Arabs if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative collapsed.

"It's long been my belief — and Egypt's — that when push comes to shove, Syria will not want to be left out or blamed should the peace process fail," said one Cairo-based diplomat.

The first public sign that Syria is willing to enter the peace talks came from a spokesman for Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who visited Cairo last week.

The spokesman, briefing reporters, said Mubarak had told Nakayama that in contacts between the two countries, Syria had shown some flexibility on the peace process.

Israel wants a peace conference to be a one-off affair, breaking down subsequently into bilateral talks with individual Arab states. Syria has called for a conference that can be reconvened periodically.

Yet on matters of substance, Israel and the Arabs remain far apart, with Israel refusing to budge from occupied territories and the Arab states saying it must trade land for peace.

Moussa said there were still hurdles to the peace process.

"There are still certain difficulties which will be discussed further... We believe the available time is short and we have to start the peace process according to U.N. resolutions and principles," he said.

Saud Al Faisal in Tehran to discuss Gulf security, ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia arrived in Tehran on Wednesday in his first trip to Iran since the Gulf giants resumed relations in March.

Prince Saud's visit was at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati, issued during a trip to Riyadh in April. On arrival, the Saudi official thanked Velayati for "the opportunity provided by me and my delegation to respond to his historic visit to Saudi Arabia," the Islamic Republic news agency reported.

Before departure, Prince Saud said he would discuss with Iranian leaders Tehran's relations with Saudi Arabia and the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Prince Saud said Iran and Saudi Arabia have "to work much to reach a common understanding" after years of estrangement.

"We seek to develop meeting points on which we concur, such as — and this is my personal conclusion — both not desiring a foreign presence in the region."

Prince Saud said the two countries needed to bolster relations of good neighbourliness "for which we need to build mutual confidence."

He said that a draft agreement for cooperation between Iran and the GCC was under continuous discussion, and included cultural, political and trade issues.

The council's foreign ministers concluded a meeting in Saudi Arabia earlier this week by expressing their "keanness to find a common ground for constructive cooperation" with Iran.

Iran is seeking to be involved in any future security arrangements for the Gulf, but its oil-rich Arab neighbours have so far shied

away from giving it an open role in regional security.

Arab diplomats have said it is too early for Iran to be involved militarily in such arrangements, which in any case have yet to materialise. But they said Tehran might play an expanded political role in Gulf security.

Velayati said earlier this year that his country sought a "six plus one" security arrangement involving the GCC states and Iran, but little has been heard of the proposal since.

The Iranian official also said the Gulf war showed the council was "useless" in keeping peace in the Gulf area, adding, "the main reason for the failure was the absence of Iran."

The kingdom had ruptured relations in early 1988 following years of strained ties because of Tehran's attempts to export its Islamic revolution to neighbouring states.

Oil fires affect climate — Abanda

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press



Dr. Ali Abanda

AMMAN — Smoke and soot from more than 500 oil wells burning in Kuwait are affecting sunlight and the local climate in Jordan, the country's meteorology chief said Wednesday.

The official, Ali Abanda, also said that temperatures have dropped recently to the lowest average in 68 years.

Jordan's climate is usually stable and dry with high temperatures much of the year.

Precipitation is modest with rain falling during a three-month winter season, but this year there was rain in mid-May. On Monday, June 3, there was drizzle and cold winds.

An estimated 516 oil wells were set ablaze during the Gulf war. They are burning out of control and scientists have predicted that it will take up to two years to put out all the fires.

"Our initial studies indicated that oil fires raging in Kuwait are indirectly affecting our climate, reducing the average temperatures by at least four degrees and causing local atmospheric instability," Abanda said in an interview.

He said fires in Kuwait are creating a chimney effect, pulling in cold air along the ground to feed oxygen to the burning wells. This is creating a wind of varying speeds near the wells and also nearby countries, he said.

He said the combustion is not complete and as a result there are hydrocarbon particles being deposited throughout the region.

"That is blocking sunlight partially and causing a colder summer season in Jordan," Abanda said noting that local climate will remain unstable throughout this year.

He said sulphur dioxide is also being produced and the chemical caused acid rain throughout the region in recent weeks.

"The recent rainfall in Jordan tended to be slightly more acidic than normal," he noted.

Temperatures were lower in March, April and May compared to the same months in previous years.

"Temperatures never dropped down as much since 1923," Abanda said.

For example, he said, the average temperatures recorded during the last week of May in Amman were 18 degrees Celsius during daytime and seven Celsius at night.

Average temperatures during the last week of May in other years registered an average high of 27 Celsius and a low of 21, Abanda said.

He said the average high in the last week of May 1923 was 22.5 Celsius and the low was 13 Celsius.

Shamir says no to U.N., Levy says yes to EC

PARIS (Agencies) — Israel has agreed to participate by the European Community in eventual Middle East peace talks, Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said Wednesday.

Poos, whose country currently holds the EC's rotating presidency, said Israel had agreed that the community would participate alongside the United States and Soviet Union if the peace conference proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker takes place.

The announcement followed talks between EC officials and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

"The EC will be present at the conference table and in the working groups," said Poos, noting that Baker's plan also called for direct dialogue between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Poos said Israel had agreed that the EC could send an envoy to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to study possible aid for residents of those territories. Poos said Israel could depend on economic support from the EC once peace was established.

On Tuesday, Levy had expressed hope that a role for the EC could be arranged but reiterated Israel's opposition to participation by the United Nations. He

said the world body could be "advised" of any agreements later.

But Levy said, "we will speak in direct talks. Once we have reached an agreement on all bilateral points between Israel and the Arab nations, then we can surely advise the United Nations that we have succeeded in resolving the problems and ending peace."

Levy said in a radio interview on Wednesday a regional Middle East peace conference might take place within weeks.

Levy, visiting Paris, was asked by Radio France International if such a conference could take place in several weeks if Israel replied favourably to proposals about talks reported to have been forwarded to it by U.S. President George Bush.

He replied: "I am sure that all sides know this is an historic occasion that must be seized and I believe the answer is yes. Perhaps within two, three or four weeks, I cannot say, but certainly soon, I'm sure of it."

Asked how the vexed issue of Palestinian representation could be solved, Levy said: "You are now entering into the kind of details that can endanger the current move towards the holding of this conference."

Levy gave no further details about the proposed conference.

Superpower summit set for June 25-27

MOSCOW (AP) — The summit meeting between Presidents Mikhail S. Gorbachev and George Bush will be held June 25-27, an independent news agency reported Wednesday. The Russian Information Agency, quoting unidentified sources it described as close to the Soviet foreign ministry, reported the dates of the long-delayed summit. The news agency reported that the dates coincided with terms reached at talks between U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh. The Moscow summit originally was scheduled for February but was delayed because of the Gulf war.

Algiers under siege; government falls, June elections postponed

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid declared a state of siege in Algeria on Wednesday, sacking the government and putting off the country's first multi-party general election after 11 days of protests by Islamic fundamentalists.

Tanks and soldiers took over the capital, Algiers, where police and fundamentalist strikers battled the previous day.

Sources close to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main opposition group, said the party had told supporters to end protests to avert further casualties "now that the dialogue is open."

They said a fundamentalist general strike — launched on May 25 to force changes in election rules and demand that Chadli himself face the voters — might soon be called off.

"Democracy has clearly been derailed, at least temporarily," said one Western diplomatic source. The parliamentary election had been planned for June 27.

The interior ministry said on Tuesday night that several people, including some policemen, had been killed and wounded in daytime violence. Western diplomatic sources spoke of at least five dead.

Hundreds of protesters and bystanders were taken to hospitals suffering from tear gas fired by riot police to disperse fundamentalists.

The state of emergency was timed from midnight Tuesday when the army started moving in

two hours before Chadli's statement.

Violence in Algiers alarmed neighbouring countries Tunisia and Morocco who have openly said they opposed Chadli's legalisation of fundamentalist parties.

It cast a shadow over a summit of the five-nation Maghreb community due to be held on June 8 and 9 in Libya to discuss the group's post-Gulf war stand, the Arab-Israeli conflict and trade policies ahead of the European Community's single market due in 1992.

The army was reported to be deployed in strength in the cities of Oran, where tear gas was used on Tuesday for the first time, and Constantine, where a businessman said shooting was heard overnight.

Most shops, banks, cafes and offices in the capital were closed on Wednesday.

Sadek Boussema, energy minister in the dismissed cabinet, said in Vienna that Algeria would keep pumping oil normally. Algeria has been producing 800,000 barrels of oil a day.

The fundamentalists took to the streets in thousands after their strike was dismissed in its early days as a failure.

Clashes grew in violence, culminating in the day of gunshots, tear gas and water cannon on Tuesday which persuaded Chadli to put off the poll.

Chadli said a new government would be formed after talks with political parties.

Kuwait opposition challenges emir

KUWAIT (R) — Opposition politicians, meeting in the protection of a mosque, have warned Kuwait's ruling family that they will continue to challenge its power and press for early general elections.

Spokesmen for the opposition movement said on Wednesday they planned to hold further such demonstrations in defiance of martial law but bad yet to set a time and place.

An estimated 500 pro-democracy activists met at the mosque on Tuesday night for prayers. It was their first gathering since the Gulf war and was held to back demands for a speedy return to democratic rule, immediate general elections and the restoration of parliament.

The turnout was small but Abdullah Al Nibari, head of the Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), said: "I was encouraged."

He told Reuters the opposition was planning "mass meetings" irrespective of martial law, because "martial law is unconstitutional."

Western political analysts said the size of the gathering and its circumstances were a sign that the opposition was determined to

There were no speeches at the silent protest, which was banned under martial law provisions forbidding political gatherings unless they are licensed. Tuesday night's was not.

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Gorbachev urges West to support perestroika

OSLO (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev urged the West on Wednesday to support his perestroika reforms or squander a historic chance to secure long-term world peace.

Gorbachev, delivering the traditional lecture as winner of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize, also called for rapid agreement on a plan to buoy his economy with western help but made it plain he would accept no conditions imposed by outsiders.

"To me it is self-evident that if Soviet perestroika succeeds, there will be a real chance of building a new world order," he told a gathering of Norway's pub-

lic figures in Oslo's ornate city hall.

"And if perestroika fails, the prospect of entering a new peaceful period in history will vanish, at least for the foreseeable future."

The superpower relationship, he said, was especially critical and any change in ties with Washington "would have grave consequences for the entire global process."

Gorbachev, looking relaxed despite being interrupted twice by anti-Soviet protesters, faces tough questions during his 22-hour stay in Norway.

12-year-old Yemeni tried in Kuwait

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KUWAIT — Twelve-year-old Ahmed Sheiba, a Kuwaiti-born Yemeni, trembled as he pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of theft.

He was the youngest to appear so far before martial courts set up by Kuwait to try about 200 people — mostly Iraqis or Jordanians of Palestinian origin — accused of collaboration with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

"I never left home during the occupation," said Sheiba, on his toes to peer up at the judge, who

tried at length to make legal jargon understood by the boy.

Sheiba's mother, her body and face covered in a black abaya veil, interrupted the judge four times before she heeded a stern warning that she would be removed from the courtroom.

"My son is very young, please let him go," she shouted. "He never did anything wrong."

Wearing a dirty white galabiya (robe), Sheiba said he did not know an 11-year-old boy being tried in absentia for aiding him in the theft from a flat in a poor Kuwaiti district.

The prosecution alleges that women's clothes were stolen.

Sheiba's father, an imam at a mosque, was not in court.

The judge is looking into a case involving at least 40 people whose charges range from rape to theft and aiding Iraqi occupation forces.

Sheiba, replying to a judge's question, did not remember when he was arrested. Asked whether he realised where he was, he replied: "In court of course."

"I never left home because my father was very worried about something happening to me and my brothers," he said.

Sheiba was released to his parents' custody when his case was postponed.

Other defendants in Wednesday's case were mostly Jordanians, Palestinians, Iraqis and Egyptians.

Palestinians have so far provided the majority of defendants in collaboration cases, a fact they say is the result of a witch-hunt by Kuwaiti authorities and self-styled militia after the ousting of the Iraqis in February.

The heaviest sentence handed down so far was a 15-year jail term to a young Iraqi man convicted of sympathising with the occupiers. His chief offence was wearing a Saddam Hussein T-shirt in public.

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King Hussein to patronise Army Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will patronise a celebration, to be held at Al Hussein Youth City on June 11, to mark Army Day and the Great Arab Revolt anniversary.

Youth clubs, scouts and girl guides movements and various sports and youth centres as well as popular sectors, the People's Army and students from community college from around the Kingdom will take part in the celebration which will be organised by the Ministry of Culture and Youth, according to Eid Al Fayed, the ministry's secretary general.

Mr. Fayed told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the

June 11 celebration would mark the end of this year's celebrations and ceremonies, held in different parts of the Kingdom, in commemoration of the country's independence anniversary.

Over the past week, the Ministry of Youth in cooperation with a number of other concerned government departments have held seminars, book, traditional costume, handicraft and paintings exhibitions around the country to mark the occasion.

Mr. Fayed said that the ministry had made all arrangements for the June 11 celebration which is to be attended by prominent public figures and representatives of various organisations.

First pilgrims leave for Mecca Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will Thursday send off the first batch of Muslims performing this year's pilgrimage in Mecca, with a special ceremony to be held at the Amman Fair Centre under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The ceremony for the Palestinian pilgrims who are making the trip by land through Jordan has been organised by the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs with the purpose of providing the pilgrims with religious guidance for the pilgrimage (Hajj) which ends by June 22 with the celebration of Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice).

According to the ministry announcement, there will be another ceremony, to be held under Prince Hassan's patronage on Saturday, to see off pilgrims from Jordan.

The ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel said in a statement at the end of May that only 6,000 Muslims from Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, and lands occupied in 1948 had registered to perform the pilgrimage.

this year, down from 13,000 last year.

The traditional Haj route for Palestinians has been through Jordan which administers religious affairs in the occupied territories.

Saudi Arabia last week said that Palestinian pilgrims should make the trip through Egypt, thus creating a problem that was later settled through contacts between the concerned ministries in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The decline in the number of Muslims performing the Haj this year was attributed to the current economic situation in the Kingdom and in Palestine and to tension caused by the Gulf war and its consequences on the Arab World.

Dr. Hilayel, who made a trip to Saudi Arabia earlier last month to discuss matters related to the pilgrims, said he had signed an agreement with the Saudi authorities that would ensure very good treatment of the Jordanian pilgrims.



Jordan Society for the Control of Environment Pollution President Ahmad Obeidat (centre) Wednesday chairs a meeting discussing climate changes in the world (Petra photo)

Seminar tackles protection of environment from pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-day symposium on climatic change in the world was held Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman as part of Jordan's observance of the International Environment Day.

The activity, organised by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environment Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, focused attention on the need for all individuals as well as organisations in Jordan to cooperate in a drive to protect the earth's atmosphere and safeguard the environment.

The society president, Ahmad Obeidat, said that his group was working to safeguard the future for the coming generation. He said that those who caused pollution should be held responsible for their action and forced to pay the price of cleaning up the mess.

Mr. Obeidat voiced appreciation to the Friedrich Naumann

Foundation for its efforts in helping Jordan deal with the protection of the environment.

Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) said that protecting the environment was a national and international responsibility. "It is horrifying to learn that half of the forests on the globe and one million of living species as well as one third of the arable land on earth would be lost by the end of the present century," said Mr. Muasher.

Head of the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Suifan Al Tal warned of the continued process of heating up the earth's atmosphere and said this would have serious consequences on the world climate and the displacement of 120 million people living on the shores, due to the rise of the sea level.

Such development, Mr. Tal

said, would affect people living in Jakarta, Bombay, Karachi, Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, Venice, Miami and Rotterdam.

The society and the German foundation issued a statement on the anniversary noting that as the world is filling the environment with various kinds of pollutants and exhausting its resources, climate change gradually starts to appear.

It said that the increase of carbon dioxide concentration and other pollutants had led to the "greenhouse effect" and that heat which reaches earth from the sun is mostly absorbed by pollutants and kept near the earth. It estimated that by the end of this century the earth crust temperature would rise within a range of 2-3 degrees centigrade.

The statement said that the world has to make quick and effective moves to reduce the pollutants responsible for the increase in temperature.

7 killed in last week of May

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of seven citizens were killed and 153 others injured in 353 road accidents in Jordan in the last week of May 1991, according to a statement by the Public Security De-

partment (PSD) Wednesday.

The statement noted that the figure was less by 76 compared to the previous week, and the injured people were less by 15.

It noted that of these accidents,

238 were in the capital while the rest occurred in Zarqa, Aqaba, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Maan, Mafraq, Tafleeh and Madaba districts.

Housing units to help settle Gulf returnees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Wednesday announced plans to help settle Jordanian expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and other Gulf countries during and after the Gulf crisis and is using money from a special crisis fund to finance housing projects benefiting the returnees.

The announcement was made by Housing Corporation Director Yusef Hiyasat who said that an initial amount of JD 4 million had been allocated to build homes for the displaced returnees.

"The Housing Corporation has now finalised plans and studies to set up a number of housing estates to meet the need of the returnees and work will soon begin on their implementation," Hiyasat noted.

He said that one of the housing estates would be located at Marka where 375 units, at the cost of JD 3 million, will be set up. Work on this estate, he said, will begin in the coming two months.

This housing estate comprises three types of units of 110, 89 and 85 square metres in area, and the total area of the units will be around 27,000 square metres.

Mr. Hiyasat pointed out that the Housing Corporation had been completed, the corporation would publish the names of the beneficiaries who have already requested the homes.

Mr. Hiyasat, who is also acting director of the Urban Development Department (UDD) said that the UDD would carry out the building of two housing estates, one at Ruseifa, north of Amman, where 50 units will be set up on separate plots of land at the cost of JD 1.1 million. Work on the project is expected to be completed by the middle of next year, Mr. Hiyasat added.

The second project, Mr. Hiyasat said, entailed preparing plots of land for the returnees to buy and set up homes benefiting from a special arrangement for payment to the UDD.

He said the project would be carried out on 210 dunums which would be purchased and prepared for the housing units at the cost of JD 4.5 million. He added that work on the project was expected to be completed by the end of 1992.

The Housing Corporation and the UDD had earlier announced that they received requests from returnees wishing to acquire homes in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Jerash, Ajlun, Sahab, Almanara and Quesmeih.

From the foreign aid it received in the wake of the Gulf war, the Jordanian government had allocated JD 120 million as a crisis fund, to help repair damage to Jordan's various sectors. The

allocation for the housing estate was part of this crisis fund, the announcement said.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh announced in March that a total of JD 28 million had been allocated to help find new export markets, finance industrial and agricultural projects and boost tourism.

These funds, he said, would also be spent on widening the country's infrastructure to enable it to absorb some 300,000 Jordanians who fled Kuwait and other Gulf states during the crisis.

According to Mr. Jaradneh, the Kingdom by the end of March had received JD 316 million, more than half of it in grants, from the European Community nations and Japan.

According to Housing Corporation officials, a total of 14,913 housing units have been set up in Jordan from 1969 until the end of 1990, through 81 projects.

They said that in accordance with a national housing strategy, adopted by the corporation in 1989, beneficiaries, mostly low-income groups, are allowed to repay the loans with low interest rates over a period of 30 years.

The officials said that the corporation planned to build 2,100 housing units each year in order to help the Kingdom cope with the growing demand for housing.

Jordanian writers honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — Two writers from Jordan, Hania Jarallah and Ahmad Soufan, were among 22 Arab writers receiving awards at the eighth Arab ministers of culture conference which was concluded in Cairo, Monday, according to an announcement by Dr. Khaled Karaki, minister of culture and youth, upon his return here from Cairo.

He said Mrs. Jarallah and Mr. Soufan would share the award with a Syrian writer. They all had writings dealing with children's culture and education.

The conference's main theme was Arab children's culture and education, and the participants discussed a number of papers

dealing with this topic, said the minister.

The conference issued a statement pledging that the participants would remain determined to maintain cooperation in enriching the literature pertaining to the Arab children's culture and education, a process considered as a national duty to promote children's knowledge in all fields.

The minister said that the participants had pledged to exchange expertise and draw up joint plans for the attainment of the conference's aspirations.

Mr. Karaki said that the three-day conference had revised progress in the implementation of the seventh meeting's resolutions and

recommendations.

The Ministry of Culture and Youth in Jordan, Mr. Karaki said, will streamline its activities to run in harmony with the recommendations and will go all it can to promote children's culture and education.

Mr. Karaki said that the conference had discussed recommendations by a special committee which presented a report revolving basically around children's cultural identity, literature for educating the Arab children and special creative skills among children.

He said that Lebanon had requested that the next conference be held in Beirut in 1993.

Closure of factories adversely affects economy — Abu Hassan

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Owners and representatives of factories closed down by the government for allegedly violating health safety regulations, Wednesday convened to review the latest developments concerning the closure of their factories.

During the meeting, Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, said that he, along with other factory owners, met with officials from various ministries to discuss the situation. "We met with representatives from the Trade and Industry Ministry, Health Ministry, Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the Environment Ministry, and Water and Irrigation Ministry," Mr. Abu Hassan said. "We were then told to meet with the owners of the factories in order to draw up some kind of a plan," he added.

Mr. Abu Hassan suggested that the main issue to tackle at this stage is to allow the finished products at the factories leave the premises for consumption, and to permit the unloading of raw material from trucks awaiting outside the factory.

Participants at the meeting, which was held at the Jordan Chamber of Industry, voiced concern over the closure of their factories, saying that it was "unfair, and irresponsible."

"I received a sudden order to close down my factory," Rimond Halteh, president of the

Jordan Yeast Company said. "My factory has never violated any law," he added.

According to Mr. Halteh, the Jordan Yeast Company had signed in the early 80s an agreement with the National Planning Council in order to use the factory's excess water to irrigate woods around the factory. "This water, upon agreement by more than one official party, is used to irrigate woods around the factory area," he said.

Mr. Halteh explained that when they (government representatives) came to test his water it failed the test. "What they don't understand is that although it failed the test this water, upon the agreement I have with official parties, is not used for anything but irrigating the woods," he said. "So I can say that the water failed the test, but it conformed with the agreement," he added.

The closure of the yeast factory will cause a shortage in bread supplies in the next few days, Mr. Halteh said. "The Ministry of Supply has been contacting me all morning to release some yeast to the market, and I told them I could not do so because my factory was shut down," he said.

Mohammad Awad Allah, president of the Jordan Industrial and Match Company, said that his company consumed less than one cubic metre of water a day, and that this water was evaporated at the end of every working day. "Although they (the government) knew that they still shut us down," he said.

Nicola Kavar, president of the United Factories Company in Zarqa, suggested setting up a common waste water treatment unit, to be financed by factories, and used collectively by them.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Abu Hassan suggested forming a committee to draw up a memorandum, to be reviewed by a legal party, and submitted at a later date to the prime minister.

Commenting on the closure, Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordan Businessmen Association, said that this action had cost the country millions of dinars in lost income, which, in turn, would adversely affect the national economy in general and the industrial sector in particular.

The closure, Mr. Abu Hassan said, will no doubt affect the process of exports to foreign markets and can by no means end the pollution problem in the Zarqa River basin.

The closure came at a time when the private and public sectors were trying to join forces to bolster the national economy in the aftermath of the great damage sustained by the Gulf crisis and the war that followed.

Abu Hassan also noted that the closure of the factories places serious responsibility on the authorities who ordered it. He also stressed on the need to study the case of each factory separately, because, according to him, each factory causes a different kind of pollution that requires a different form of treatment.

Deputies, Iraqi president review Arab issues



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

BAGHDAD (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat was received here Wednesday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's continued support to Iraq.

Dr. Arabiyat reviewed with the president current Arab affairs and relations between Jordan and Iraq.

The meeting was preceded by another one with Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi.

Dr. Arabiyat and his team earlier met with Saadi Mahdi Saleh, speaker of the Iraqi People's Assembly, and heard from him details about the Iraqi-Kurdish agreement, which, he said, would put an end to various problems in the north.

In the talks between the two sides, topics like means for restoring solidarity among Arab states and efforts to lift the economic embargo on Iraq were discussed.

Earlier Dr. Arabiyat and his team had visited a memorial for the unknown soldier and laid a wreath in respect for those who fell in the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

Kuwait opposition

(Continued from page 1)

continue to be active and vocal, despite official disapproval. The government-controlled Al Fajr Al Jadid (New Dawn), the only functioning newspaper in Kuwait, attacked the activists in a thinly disguised editorial on Wednesday.

It referred to people "sleeping on comfortable Western cushions waking up to the sound of dreamy music and rumour-mongering" in a vigorous defence of a national council recalled by the emir as a stopgap before elections to a new assembly in October next year.

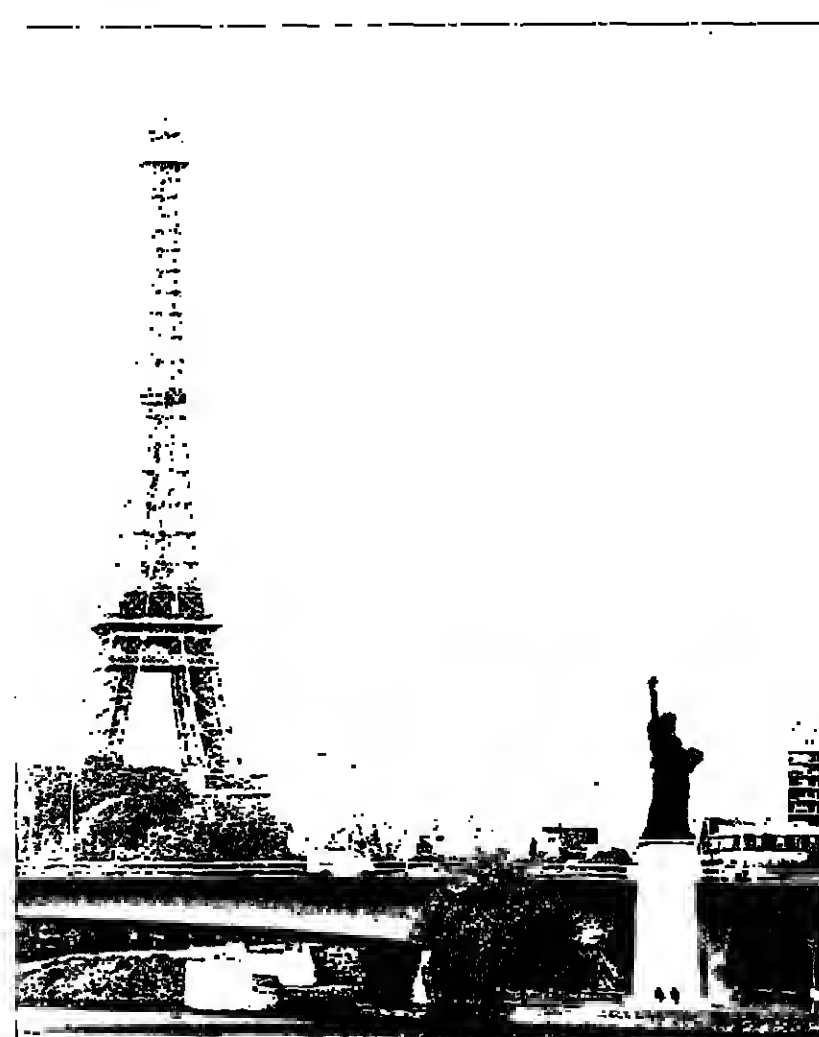
WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 3 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guilot at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alfa Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle (opening ceremony at 6 p.m.)

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Arabs want genuine change

ONLY days after U.S. Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney concluded his talks with Israeli officials to cement the strategic and security agreements between their countries, Israeli warplanes pounded Palestinian bases in South Lebanon killing scores and injuring many more, including many children. In what has been described as the fiercest attacks since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, bases of several factions of the PLO were hammered in waves involving squads of warplanes that conducted no less than 18 sorties. This latest flexing of Israeli military power, coming as it does in the middle of a serious search for a viable peace process to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, not only appears intended at snubbing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative and aborting the early modest successes that it had enjoyed but also to undermine the recent Syrian-Lebanese cooperation and friendship treaty that promised to end the civil strife there. The aggressive Israeli actions come also amidst the call for the construction of confidence building measures between the antagonists in the Middle East.

The question that looms in the horizon is whether Tel Aviv is reverting to its old tactics that aim to heat up the military situation in the area every time there is semblance of a peace movement that appears to have promise. What better way to stunt the embryonic peace process than to attack one or two of the principal parties and put in place the psychology of war instead of the psychology of peace and stability. By engaging the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese in an escalating armed conflict Israel is simply setting the stage for a broader military confrontation in the region rather than for a peace parley. As a matter of fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is poised to reject the appeal of U.S. President George Bush for flexibility on the terms and conditions of the projected peace conference. Sources in Shamir's office told the Jerusalem Post Tuesday that the issues related to the U.N. involvement and the EC role "are critical" for Israel and that Shamir is not about to budge on them.

What all this boils down to is that Israel is better prepared to wage war than to seek for peace. Given the U.S. muted reaction to the heavy bombardment of southern Lebanon and the near silence of the other powers in the U.N. Security Council, Tel Aviv can be expected to feel encouraged by its latest language of death and destruction that it is using against the Arab side. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler was quoted as having said that "whenever this happens (the Israeli air raids), we have always spoken out and said that we would like to see this tragic cycle of violence end." "Our policy," she continued, "has not changed today." What the Arab parties would like to see is indeed a definitive change in the U.S. policy vis-a-vis such Israeli attacks rather than the continuation of the old policies that only encouraged Tel Aviv to push harder and harder against its Arab neighbours. Meanwhile, the quest for a lasting peace and security in the region gets bogged down and stymied more than ever. Had Washington and its allies spoken more forcefully against this new cycle of violence perpetrated by Israel, it would have given more credence to its protestations that it is seriously and earnestly brokering a just and permanent peace. Having opted to keep such a low profile, its signal to the Arab parties can be anything but positive.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL three Jordanian Arabic dailies Wednesday tackled Israel's latest air raids on Palestinian and Lebanese positions in southern Lebanon resulting in the death of innocent people. Al Ra'i Arabic daily for its part said not a single western capital will raise its voice in protest against such atrocity and the U.N. Security Council would not issue any resolution that would put an end to such criminal actions. As some countries of the world busy themselves with the Middle East question and try to find a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, the Israelis display their insistence on pursuing acts of terrorism and acts of aggression, openly defying the world community in general and the Arabs in particular, said Al Ra'i. The women and children and the school children slain in the Israeli raid on Lebanon Tuesday and Monday were sacrificed in order to please the Zionists and their backers in Washington, London, Rome, Paris, Moscow and Peking, said the paper. The daily noted that there can be no such thing as international legitimacy if it is applied on one country and not all countries on equal footing; and if backing Israel's aggressions on the Arabs is part of the international legitimacy then it should rather be called "racist legitimacy" because it openly supports the aggressor against the victim and encourages the Zionists to continue their defiance of the world community and its resolutions, the paper noted. The air raid on Lebanon, the paper concluded, was a message to the United Nations and its secretary general who still claim to be searching for a settlement to the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the air raid on Lebanon bears a clear sign that the Israelis have drawn up plans and plots in order to launch a new aggression so as to create new realities and new situations in the Arab region with which to keep the world public opinion busy and diverted from the real chronic problems. Describing the raid as brutal and barbaric, the paper said that Israel could be provoking Syria to draw it into a conflict and at the same time disposing of Palestinian resistance positions in southern Lebanon lest they would serve as a springboard for future attacks on the Israeli military. The paper pointed out that since Syria and Lebanon reached a "brotherly treaty" in the past month, the Israelis have been trying to find an excuse to disrupt it and to upset the governments in Beirut and Damascus.

U.S. tribunal charges Bush with war crimes

By Joe Lauria

The following article is reprinted from The Guardian, a New York-based radical newsweekly.

THE image on the screen seemed to be evidence enough that Washington committed war crimes in the Gulf. Three Iraqi children in a dingy Baghdad hospital: a little girl by the bed of two survivors of the air raid sheltered in February by U.S. bombs; a crying, bandaged girl of about three; an infant with a distorted, almost melted face. Their shocked and confused eyes stared out at the camera.

The handful of people who remained to the end of a daylong New York City meeting on alleged U.S. war crimes were visibly shaken. "We must ensure that this will never again be perpetrated in our name," said Karen Talbot, director of the San Francisco-based International Centre for Peace and Justice, who chaired the final panel in the May 11 session.

Nearly 800 people gathered May 11 for the first hearing by a Commission of Inquiry set up to organise an International War Crimes Tribunal. The tribunal is tentatively scheduled for February, possibly in The Hague, the Dutch city that is the site of the World Court. That will be the culmination of hearings due in some 35 U.S. cities and more than 20 other countries.

The Commission of Inquiry was organised by the National Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, one of two umbrella organisations that coordinated nationwide protests against the Gulf war.

(The other, the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, recently closed its national office in New York.)

The video of the Iraqi children, which drew such a strong emotional response, was produced by the American Network for Service and Relief in coordination with the Muslim Public Affairs

Council. It was one of several films that complemented evidence against Washington offered by nearly two dozen speakers on six panels.

After a standing ovation, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who convened the commission of inquiry, declared that "governments that wage wars of conquest against others (must be) accountable to the people for their conduct." If the people had risen up throughout history to stop governments, the continuing tragedies of war might have been averted, he argued.

"Now we see new threats to life, the use of technology against life," said Clark. "It is absolutely imperative that the peoples of this planet hold accountable the great powers... who destroyed Iraq and threaten every poor nation today."

"For this reason," he added, "these commission hearings, in one of the largest criminal investigations in history, will examine a single complaint, charging (the Bush administration) and others to be named later with crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other criminal acts."

The White House and the Pentagon rejected an invitation from the commission to defend themselves at the hearing.

Scathing indictment

Clark said 19 detailed charges had been established. They include: provoking Iraq into war in order to destroy it; preventing peace talks; deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure; intentionally bombing civilians; killing fleeing or surrendering Iraqi soldiers; using prohibited weapons to inflict unnecessary suffering; attacking nuclear sites, chemical plants and dams; corrupting the United Nations; usurping the U.S. Congress' right to declare war; destroying the environment; inciting a civil war; depriving Iraqi civilians of essentials for survival and attacking after the ceasefire.

Clark noted that Bush had proclaimed on Jan. 9 in effect that he "had... power to engage in a war without talking to anybody. What military dictator in history ever claimed greater power than that?"

The commission of inquiry is also probing the economic and social effects of the war worldwide. Former Centre for Constitutional Rights Director Michael Ratner, who represented several members of Congress in a court challenge to the constitutionality of the war, outlined the legal basis for the war crimes charges. Ratner explained the two broad categories of such charges: crimes against peace and crimes against humanity.

The first of these is the "planning, preparation or initiation of a war of aggression" as well as blocking peace efforts, said Ratner. He pointed to the U.N. Charter, which requires all members to "settle their international

"The U.S. and its leaders have committed international crimes. Although we cannot bring them to justice, we can reveal their criminal conduct with the hope that it can be repudiated."

disputes by peaceful means." The charter also mandates parties to "seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means."

Instead, President Bush insisted on "no negotiations, no compromise, no face-saving," and ridiculed Iraqi and Arab peace offers. Ratner and other speakers charged. Clark, Ratner and others also stressed the U.S. corruption of the U.N. Security Council. "Few people realise," said Ratner, "that after the resolution permitting force, the U.S. gave a check for \$500 million to pay off part of its \$500 million debt to the U.N."

The commission's initial complaint charges that the Pentagon

planned as far back as 1989 to move against Iraq, and that the CIA directed Kuwait to provoke Baghdad by violating OPEC agreements, stealing Iraqi oil reserves and breaking off border talks. The complaint also alleges that in July 1990 Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf ran computerised war games against mock Iraqi armoured divisions.

On crimes against humanity, Ratner said the U.S. violated The Hague and Geneva conventions, which say civilian populations, non-combatant soldiers and civilian infrastructures are off-limits and an army's force cannot exceed its military objectives. He noted that international violations constitute "grave breaches" of law, for which "Nazis and Japanese hung."

Hidden protests

The Egyptian Commission of Inquiry was represented in New

York by Nawal Al Saadawi, president of Arab Women's Solidarity Association and author of "The Hidden Face of Eve" and other groundbreaking feminist works.

"There were millions of women and men in the Arab World who were against the war and demonstrated but they are ignored by the media," she told the tribunal. "We, as opposition in Egypt, were silenced. We don't have this very small democracy you have here in expression."

The deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians and the destruction of the country's urban support system have been well-documented by two U.N. reports, by Ramsey Clark's journey there during the war and in reports from post-war eyewitnesses such as Aqel Abed of the Palestine Aid Society, who spoke at

the tribunal. Several speakers, including Paul Walker, director of the Institute for Peace and International Security, pointed out the "myth of surgical bombing," as well as Washington's use of illegal weapons of mass destruction such as fuel air bombs, super bombs intended to assassinate Iraqi leaders and napalm.

The tribunal also charged the United States with crimes against civilians far from the war zone. Joe Franco, of ACT UP, said more money was spent on the war in 10 days than on fighting AIDS over the last decade. Striking City University of New York student Jennifer Whalen spoke of tuition hikes at public universities, and Neal Saad, director of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Arab-American Community Centre documented cases of official harassment of Arab-Americans during the Gulf war.

The war's cost to the economies of Asia and Africa, resulting from the abrupt return home of workers from Kuwait and Iraq — most of whom had lost all of their savings and property — was also entered as evidence against the United States.

Michio Kaku, professor of nuclear physics at the City University, said Bush had ignored "pleadings" by environmentalist not to go to war and has now "turned his back on the greatest environmental disaster in history. Imagine 500 oil wells burning in Chicago," Kaku added. "New York City would be partially darkened by the soot, which is 10 times that produced by the entire United States."

Kaku estimates it could take six years to put out the Kuwaiti oil fires, the origins of which are still unknown. The physicist also blasted Bush for "deliberately targeting nuclear and chemical facilities," which will make "nuclear power plants fair game in future wars."

Groups active in the Campaign for Peace in the Middle East were notably absent from the tribunal.

"We don't have a formal position on the war crimes tribunal," Campaign spokesperson Leslie Cagan told the Guardian. "We many individuals are supportive of it as well as of continuing the movement." With regard to the anti-war work on a national level, Cagan noted. "The campaign came together as a national structure for local and national groups to unify their efforts. It was never a free-standing organisation." Cagan added that many campaign activists are now "defused" about what to do. Some "want to fight on their own" and many groups are now "involved in doing Middle East work that they had never done before," she said.

The Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, which organised the tribunal, has also lost some of its original momentum. During the U.S. buildup and the war, the organisation claimed more than 100 member groups, many are no longer participating in Coalition activities. The Workers World Party remains the Coalition's main component.

Peter Drucker of Mobilisation for Survival, a Campaign affiliate during the war, said the tribunal is "the Coalition's thing and we haven't interfered, but we are in favour of a war crimes tribunal." He said this group "was trying to find out where the other hearings will be held around the country and notify our affiliates."

The New York Tribunal is the first in what organisers hope will be a worldwide campaign. The U.S. and its leaders have committed international crimes," said Ratner. "Although we cannot bring them to justice, we can reveal their criminal conduct... with the hope that... it can be repudiated."

After Clark and Ratner had spoken, the crowd began slowly to file out. About 50 remained at the hearing ended six hours later, with the image of the suffering Iraqi children seared in their minds.

U.S. faces new challenges as world leader

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Three months after the Gulf war, the U.S. position as world leader is coming into sharper focus, bringing new challenges and pressures to bear on President George Bush.

Bush led the allied coalition during the Gulf Crisis, setting the pace but acting in concert with others.

Since then, the United States has been thrust into new situations without the old counterweight of rival influence from a Soviet union now absorbed in its own crises.

Last week for example it was U.S. officials who arranged the terms of a rebel victory in Ethiopia, traditionally a Soviet client in Africa.

Bush himself described his vision of the U.S. role in world affairs in a speech in Colorado last week, where he also unveiled the first major Middle East arms control initiative in 35 years.

"We can't right all wrongs, but neither can any nation lead as we can," Bush said.

"We do not dictate the courses nations follow, but neither can we overlook the fact that our examples reshape the world."

His Middle East arms control package was an attempt to set

such an example, designed to coax the world's major weapons suppliers into a more responsible sales policy.

But political analysts said major components of the initiative, though praiseworthy, would almost certainly prove impossible to implement.

"Do I think the whole package can be implemented in the short-term? No," said Marvin Feuerwerker, a former head of policy planning at the Pentagon now with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Do I think some aspects might have the chance for limited success? Yes," he added.

Washington has assumed a key role in the affairs of several countries, including Ethiopia, where in the past it deferred to other powers.

"Behind the American involvement in the Ethiopian situation lies the realisation that, much as we might like to stay on the sidelines in Third World strife, it is better to bring our weight to bear discreetly and in good time," said Paul Henze, a Rand Corporation expert on the horn of Africa.

"This lesson has been learned in Liberia, in Somalia and in the Iraqi-Kurdish situation," Henze said, citing these examples of the collapse of order and great human suffering with no effective

outside intervention. But the risks and limitations of U.S. involvement are also apparent.

Only two days after U.S. mediation in Ethiopia paved the way for rebels to enter Addis Ababa, the rebels were shooting anti-American demonstrators who blamed Washington for the victory of rival ethnic groups.

"We're walking into a vacuum. There's no-one else to do these things," said Kim Holmes of the conservative Heritage Foundation. "The danger is we may get dragged into situations we should stay out of and end up taking sides in ethnic disputes which we cannot solve."

Even minor gestures by the United States can take on more significance than in the past. This gives U.S. policymakers unrivalled influence but also requires unprecedented caution, analysts said.

Analysts say the U.S. has no vital strategic interests in Yugoslavia, yet Washington's decision to punish Serbia by suspending a \$5 million in aid and withdrawing support for international loans had an immediate and major political impact.

World leaders came to Washington to plead their cases. A few days ago Cypriot President George Vassiliou asked Bush to increase pressure on Turkey to solve the conflict dividing the

Mediterranean island. Vassiliou said Bush told him he wanted to be a catalyst to solve the long dispute and "when he says that the Cyprus problem can be solved, he means it."

When hundreds of thousands of Kurds fled Iraq to Turkey after the collapse of their uprising against President Saddam Hussein, the U.S. was at first reluctant to help them, hoping the United Nations would take the lead.

But it gradually became clear to Bush that the U.S. had to provide the immediate and massive aid required and that not providing it would have a high political cost.

Bush also carries the decisive vote on whether the West should help the attempts of its old rival, the Soviet Union, to reform its economy.

In complicated and lengthy talks with senior Soviet officials in Washington, the Bush administration has in effect found itself dictating the terms of the model of economic reform it is prepared to back with cash.

It is the kind of role Bush appears to relish.

"Recently, many here and abroad wondered whether America still possessed the strength and the will to bear the burden of world leadership. My fellow Americans, we do and we will," he told his Colorado audience.

U.S. Iraq dilemma persists

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Nearly 100 days after it won the Gulf war against Iraq, the United States is back to where it started in its campaign to drive Saddam Hussein from power: economic sanctions.

But in stark contrast to the heady days after the fighting stopped at the end of February, few U.S. officials now predict President Saddam's downfall soon. Some privately speak in terms of years rather than months no matter how tight the economic noose around Iraq is pulled.

In the clearest signal yet that it intends to pull that noose as tight as it can, the Bush administration this week announced it wanted Iraq to pay 50 per cent of its future oil income in war reparations.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has suggested a 30 per cent ceiling, a figure acceptable to all of Washington's war allies except Kuwait.

The U.S. demand is part of a post-war strategy which

apparently aims to use sanctions to make daily life in Iraq so miserable that someone will act to remove the Iraqi president, the man president George Bush has repeatedly likened to Hitler.

Bush has said sanctions against Iraq must remain in force as long as Saddam is in power.

But U.S. experts on the Middle East are increasingly doubtful that a strategy based on sanctions will work much better now than it did following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2.

Washington and its allies went to war on Jan. 17 after it became obvious that sanctions would neither drive Iraq's armies from occupied Kuwait nor spark a popular uprising that would sweep Saddam away and replace him with a less bellicose leader.

For a few weeks after the humiliating defeat of his armies, Saddam's survival seemed in doubt as thousands of Kurds and Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims rose in rebellion and captured large slabs of the country.

"With this much turmoil, it seems to me unlikely that he will survive," Bush said on March 27, a day after his administration

decided not to aid the rebels directly or indirectly. "People are fed up with him."

Three weeks later, Bush insisted that "the most important thing is to get Saddam out of there (Iraq)."

The Iraqi leader stayed on. "Had the U.S. used its overwhelming air superiority in support of the rebels, it is unlikely Saddam would be ruling Iraq today," said Harvard University's Laurie Mylroie, a leading U.S. expert on Iraq.

The Iraqi leader's continued presence has caused a distinct shift in how Americans view the war: according to a poll conducted for Newsweek magazine in May, 55 per cent of those questioned said there had been no victory because Saddam was still around.

At least in theory, squeezing the Iraqi president out through economic pressure should be easier now than it was before allied bombers and missiles devastated Iraq's infrastructure, throwing the country back to what a United Nations report termed the "pre-industrial age."

Large parts of Iraq are still

without power and telephone communications. According to a Harvard University team which toured Iraq in May, the destruction of the electricity grid has contributed to a public health catastrophe.

Dr. Peter Fuchs, head of the Gulf Task Force of the International Committee of the Red Cross, told a Senate subcommittee recently that five million civilians are at "high risk" of epidemics.

Rebuilding the infrastructure costs money Iraq says it does not have: the country has had no income since a U.N. embargo 10 months ago ended oil exports which accounted for virtually all of its foreign currency revenues.

Critics of a tough, sanctions-based policy point out that the vast majority of Iraqis had no say in shaping the policies that led to war and are in effect being punished for the actions of a leader who rules through fear.

But the hardships most of the Iraqi population suffer in the wake of the war are no guarantee that there will be a coup against Saddam, Middle East experts say.

Stop rewarding Israel

By Sama Atiyeh

TWENTY-FOUR years have gone by since Israel invaded and occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians and Arabs are still waiting for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, but to no avail. When Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, Iraq was given a deadline to withdraw, which it eventually did after the country's devastation by the U.S.-led allied forces. When the war came to an end, Arabs, particularly Palestinians, thought that the same standards would be applied to their rights to a homeland. But instead, we have Secretary of State James Baker shutting back and forth to the region to try to convince the Israelis to just sit down with the Palestinians in order to come to a peaceful settlement to the problem. Mr. Baker and other foreign ministers insist that they would not pressure Israel into accepting a peaceful solution, but would discuss it with the Jewish state.

Yesterday, the Arabs and Palestinians marked the 24th anniversary of the Israeli occupation with the continued air raids on south Lebanon for the third straight day, killing Arab civilians. Instead of being condemned for this by the international community, Israel, in return, has been rewarded once again for what it did — i.e. illegally occupying Arab territories exactly 24 years ago, oppressing Palestinians through every imaginable measure, bombing Lebanon, etc. — by receiving a generous offer of \$500 million loan guarantees from (surprisingly once again) France "for immigration-related projects."

How are the Arabs supposed to look at such an offer made to Israel on the 24th anniversary of its illegal of

Arab lands occupation? How are we supposed to look at the continued bombardment of south Lebanon with the world being silent over these crimes and silent over Israeli crimes against the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation? The Russian and Ethiopian immigrants fleeing into Israel in the tens of thousands as Palestinians living in the diaspora in refugee camps are waiting for their legitimate rights to be implemented. Jewish settlements keep popping up like wild weeds in the West Bank while the U.S. maintains they are just "an obstacle to peace." Israel celebrates its 24th year of its illegal occupation by bombing south Lebanon and receiving generous loans to accommodate foreign-speaking immigrants on property that does not even belong to them. The international reaction (actually, non-reaction) to Israeli measures and violations of every basic human rights is beyond comprehension. If the world was so upright (to use an understatement) about Israel's invasion of Kuwait, where is this same world gone to when Israel continues to bomb, kill and invade? Where are the great western media organisations that spent millions of dollars to cover the "Iraqi atrocities" in the past year, as if atrocities are only committed by that particular country?

We will not ask the influential leaders of this world to apply the same standards on Israel as it applied them on Iraq to get it out of Kuwait by launching a full-scale war. We ask for less: Stop rewarding Israel for its atrocities against the Palestinians and the Lebanese. Stop giving money to Israel for settling Jews on Arab territories. Stop giving Israel weapons that kill Arabs. That is all we ask.

LETTERS

Fine not fined

To the Editor:

WE were very surprised to read the name Fine Hygienic Paper Co. within the list of factories closed down by the authorities for violating health safety regulations in your article "21 Factories closed down for polluting Zarga River basin" published on page 3 (June 5).

Fine Hygienic was never included under any such order and has never violated the law nor has it ever been a violator of health and safety regulations.

Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd.

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Weekender

June 6, 1991 A

Published Every Thursday

An empire built on beans

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Amina Zaghlul's claim to fame as a child was that she came from the same family that produced Saad Zaghlul, one of modern Egypt's founding fathers. Today Amina Zaghlul is a well-known figure in her own right, the owner of a chain of restaurants called Felfela that specialise in the classic but simple dishes of Egypt. To become the successful businesswoman that she is today, Zaghlul had to turn her back on tradition and challenge at every step the notion that a woman's place was definitely not in business.

Unlike her illustrious ancestor, who came from a village near the northern city of Fnuh, Zaghlul grew up in Alexandria. It was here that she spent her all-too-brief childhood. At 14, after receiving a rudimentary education, Amina was married off to a cousin.

Her life seemed mapped out for her: Marriage, children and the house, just as it was for most of her friends in the Egypt of the 1940s. But little did anyone know, least of all Amina herself, that one day this quiet girl would break all the conventions of her time and become a wealthy businesswoman. The Felfela chain of restaurants has become a household name to Egyptians and foreign tourists alike.

Today Zaghlul, in her early fifties, elegant and dressed with flair, has trouble recalling much about her early years, not, it seems, because her memory has failed her, but rather because she has subconsciously drawn a veil over the oppressive upbringing that was normal for young girls in those days. Her break

with tradition and the decision to launch herself into the world of commerce is something she remembers far more clearly.

"If, at a certain stage in my life, I decided to embark on a money-making activity, it was quite simply due to the fact that having had three children, I found myself, at the age of 20 or 22, with nothing left to do in life," said Zaghlul. "I didn't want just to be a consumer. I loathe women who have nothing better to do than go to the hairdresser or the club and who spend the rest of their lives chatting on the phone. I don't believe we were put on this earth to waste away our time like that. I started looking for a way of occupying my spare time so I wouldn't feel completely useless. Clearly, the only way of beating the small identity crisis I was going through was to find myself some work, but just what kind of work was another matter."

Career in Fashion
Zaghlul began her career as a working woman in a field she thought would be easy: She decided to launch her own fashion design studio. "I knew nothing about designing or cutting clothes, but I hired some experts and I plunged in, relying on my own imagination and taste," she said. "I soon had 20 staff under me, and I even opened a boutique in one of the smartest parts of Cairo. Everything was going wonderfully... but I had a problem. I couldn't stand my customers, their terrible taste, their arrogance and their whims. That's why I threw the whole thing in and made a complete change of direction — from fashion to catering."

Zaghlul closed down the studio and, after a series of setbacks, opened a tiny restaurant in a narrow alleyway, sandwiched between two buildings in the heart of Cairo. Again she decided to put her faith in her own personal taste, and her instinct proved a winner. Zaghlul chose to serve exclusively simple and traditional Egyptian meals — variations on the classic "foul," the delicious but unsophisticated dish made of boiled broad beans. In the years to come, she was never to stray from this formula. Today she still puts the extraordinary success of her restaurants down to the appeal of the whole-some menu she offers everywhere, based on "foul," as well as croquettes made of mashed broad beans (known as falafel or taamie), eggplant puree and dozens of different salads, many of them flavoured with sesame.

"It so happens that I'm vegetarian, and that enabled me to find out for myself that traditional Egyptian dishes based on dried broad beans are among the healthiest in the world," said Zaghlul. "But these dishes could never be found on the menus of the luxury restaurants. Tourists, and indeed very few Egyptians themselves, ever had the chance to sample and appreciate these things. That's why I started my first restaurant, to give everyone the chance to taste my favourite dishes."

Looking back, it seems so simple now, but Zaghlul's rise to success did not go entirely smoothly. In those days — the end of the 1950s — women who embarked on any kind of career were regarded with mistrust and disapproval. Zaghlul faced a

great deal of public criticism. Even the press had something to say about her venture.

"It was considered shameful that a woman should do certain things, such as opening a studio or a restaurant serving boiled broad beans," she said. "And that attitude was mirrored in every aspect of my daily life. If I needed an official document, it was a drama trying to get hold of it. If I had to go to a ministry to obtain a license there were always endless questions and 'come back tomorrow.' At that time, it wasn't very easy to be a businesswoman in Egypt."

To make matters even more difficult, Zaghlul was very attractive, and like many beautiful women, she had a hard time getting people to take her seriously, she recalls. "I swear that even now I meet some people with the same outdated ideas and the same disapproval etched on their faces," she said. "The eastern woman is emancipated, it's true, but that doesn't mean this has been accepted everywhere with good grace."

Zaghlul is clearly sensitive on this point, scarred from 30 years of battling for the right to carve a place in a world strictly controlled by men. To her credit, she now has seven restaurants scattered throughout Cairo, from the centre of town to the Pyramid area, and from the north of Cairo to Maadi, a smart southern suburb. All of them are decorated in the same style, in keeping with the peasant traditions that also dictate their menus.

As she spoke during a recent interview in one of her seven establishments, Zaghlul was handing out advice

and encouragement to her staff, with a ready smile as always, moving among the scrubbed and waxed wooden tables, whose paper tablecloths also serve as the menus. On offer were a dozen "foul" dishes, each one different, some with cream, some with eggs, others with tomatoes, all of them created by Zaghlul herself and unique to her chain of eateries. To accompany them, there was a good selection of eastern-style salads, and traditional sweets such as the famous Omm Ali, a mouth-watering concoction of unleavened bread soaked in a sweet milk-based custard and topped with raisins and finely chopped hazelnuts.

Zaghlul's menus are also some of the most reasonably priced in town. Only here can diners eat a hearty, satisfying meal and leave the table with a check for less than \$2 a head. Meanwhile customers also enjoy a backdrop of garlands of flowers, with clusters and fronds trailing from the ceiling, twirling around the columns and covering the walls. Banking as always on her own intuitive taste, Zaghlul has used bright colours for the decor, with plenty of gold and silver. The lighting, provided by soft multicoloured glass lamps, adds the final touch.

'It all began as a joke'

Even now, Zaghlul sometimes finds it difficult to digest the extent of her success. "It all began as something of a joke," she said. "I never for a moment thought the business would grow to this size. No one had ever before tried to sell Egypt's traditional cuisine, so I had nothing at all on which to



The owner of a chain of restaurants equally popular with tourists and Egyptians, Amina Zaghlul has based her success on hard work and a winning recipe.

base my predictions. I began with 15 tables and my own cook. Right from the start my aim was to create a restaurant for vegetarians like myself, but I found out that if I didn't serve meat I wouldn't be given the type of license I wanted. So I had to compromise and agree to serve meat, chicken and fish — but of course I cooked them according to traditional Egyptian peasant recipes."

Zaghlul is no longer with the cousin she married so young. Her second husband is a senior diplomat, who travels a great deal. Her three sons from her first marriage are grown up and play an active role in their mother's business. Zaghlul made a point of entrusting them with responsibilities from an early age so they would feel directly involved in the family business.

"In the east, it is inconceiv-

able that a woman should monopolise the running of a family business to the exclusion of the men," she said. "These days, I never make a decision without having first discussed the matter at great length with my sons." All three have careers of their own: One has a diploma in tourism, another is an agricultural engineer and the third is a lawyer.

It may seem strange that such an energetic woman, one who has never once stopped working in a career spanning more than 30 years, is already planning her retirement. But the retirement Zaghlul has in mind is one with a difference. Her idea is to spend it in a tourist village that she is creating on the shores of the Red Sea.

"I'm in the process of creating a tourist village at Urgada (Ghardaqa) a place set between the sea and the

mountains," she said. "There will be a large hotel, 60 villas, several luxury units for VIP clients, a diving school, swimming pools, a hydrotherapy centre, restaurants, boutiques and all the rest. The buildings were interrupted by the Gulf war but we're hoping it will begin again soon. It is there, in Urgada, that I plan to spend my retirement, together with my husband, once I've delegated responsibility for all my other activities."

"I'm also thinking about setting up several smaller companies and inviting private investors to take shares," she mused, as the setting sun over the Nile began glinting through the window of her busy restaurant. "And then again, I'm considering starting a franchise system... but that is still in the thinking stage." — World News Link.

China's home of Kung Fu flourishes

By Janet Snyder

Reuter

Shaolin, China. — Emperors of China could call on the battling monks of Shaolin for protection. Today's graduates from the home of Kung Fu often become cops.

This mountain stronghold in eastern Henan Province was founded in 496 A.D. and rose to prominence both as a centre of Chinese Buddhism and as the home of Kung Fu, the martial art made famous in countless Hong Kong action movies.

Now thousands of students study the kicking, chopping and stabbing Kung Fu techniques here, many to prepare for a career in the police.

"According to the government's needs, they'll work for the public Security Bureau," said coach Shi Deyuan.

According to legend, the sixth century Buddhist teacher Bodhidharma, the founder of the Zen sect, came to Shaolin to meditate. His grinning image is displayed all over souvenir stalls lining the dusty track leading to the Shaolin Monastery.

After the temple was established its monks came under attack from bandits. They devised their lethal style of unarmed combat in deference to Buddhism's essentially pacifist beliefs.

In the 1960s the Kung Fu craze began with a spate of movies, many starring the late screen idol Bruce Lee. Thousands of martial arts devotees have been coming here ever since.

At dawn more than 2,000 youngsters in a dozen Kung Fu schools surrounding Shaolin temple put themselves through rigorous exercises, endlessly repeating manoeuvres named after tigers about to spring, drunken monkeys and other creatures. The students' martial arts forebears, the monks of

Shaolin of whom there are only an elderly handful today, once trained themselves to punch through brick walls, walk on broken glass and climb sheer surfaces.

The stone floor of the temple's candlelit main hall bears deep potholes — made by centuries of stamping, kicking and lunging by Kung Fu devotees.

At the central Shaolin school, Chinese students pay 1,060 Yuan (\$210) a year for Kung Fu training under coach Shi. Training begins in the chill of 4.30 A.M. and can carry on until 10.30 at night.

Food, in keeping with the temple's Buddhist tradition, is mostly vegetarian. The students look lean, but healthy and alert.

Foreign students are welcome but they take separate classes at reduced hours and much more expensive rates. A dozen of Shi's star pupils showed their stuff at Shaolin's central practice hall. Leading the parade was a cordon of tough-looking boys and girls in high-necked silk pyjamas.

The youngest was 11, the eldest 17. Two hundred youngsters study at what is considered the inner sanctum of the Kung Fu world. Their 26-year-old Master Shi, slight and freckled, is the 31st generation of Kung Fu masters in his family.

"If you're too old when you start Kung Fu, you never become good at it," said farmer's son Shi Xingli, 17.

He saluted visitors in hands-folded Buddhist fashion, part of the discipline expected of all Shaolin trainees.

The grand finale of their performance was when a young adept pushed his neck onto a spear while balancing a load of bricks on his back — just as another boy chopped the bricks in half with a great thwack, both emerged unscathed.

BOOK REVIEWS

Poet's progress

A Mountainous Journey

By Fadwa Tuqan

The Women's Press, London 1990 £12.95

FADWA TUQAN, a Palestinian, is one of the best known poets in the Arab World. In this autobiography she describes the tremendously uphill journey that took her to self-fulfilment. There was first a stifling childhood in the bare of the house of her well-to-do family in Nablus. She was, besides, as unwanted child, the seventh in a brood of ten, and burly ignored by her parents. A happy release into school was quickly ended when she was withdrawn in disgrace, aged thirteen, because a boy who had seen her at a distance sent her a flower.

Yet, strangely, the subsequent years of confinement determined her poetic bent. She found solace in reading and writing, and a much older brother, Ibrahim, who had already made his mark as a poet and critic, perceived her potential and put her through a prolonged course of reading and memorising classical Arabic poetry. Under his influence she began to write verse in classical form, only later breaking into the freer, more personal style that is prized today. She started to publish poetry regularly in 1952, at the age of 35, and was soon acclaimed. But it was not until nine years later that she had her first real taste of freedom through a visit to England. This was engineered by a much younger cousin studying at Oxford who found her a place in an English family nearby and helped her to enrol in two short university courses in English literature. She had already learned English from another brother, Nimr.

At an earlier date Fadwa's father, an ardent nationalist — twice deported by the British Mandatory Authorities — asked her to give her essentially lyrical verse a greater political content. She points out that she could hardly do so since she knew little of politics and was still debarrd by rigid social conventions from meeting people from whom she could learn. She of course writes with anguish of the sufferings of Palestinians during the '30s and '40s — first from harsh British measures and then from the Zionists. But she had no strong political commitment until after the June 1967 war, when she became a major voice among resistance poets.

Among the good English translations in this book of some of her poems, those about Palestine may well not have been surpassed. "A Jordanian-Palestinian in England," written about 1961, captures the sadness of finding that even kind English friends then accepted the Israeli claim that Palestinians did not exist as a people. "The Dehge And The Tree," written soon after June 1967, pictures a scene of desolation, yet tinged with hope through the hauntingly repeated phrase "the birds will return." In "Song Of Becoming," written later in 1967, she muses on the future of boys who have only recently been larking about with kites and conjures up an astoundingly prophetic vision of the intifada.

Her remarkable autobiography, well translated by Olive Kenny, goes only as far as 1967. A second volume is promised that should tell the rest. For the present what we mainly know is that she has resolutely continued to live in Nablus — Middle East International.

By Sue Dearden

Apple Computer



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Care for the babies

By Blake Addasi

DO you love your children? Now, now, I do not want you to rush into answering this. Confer amongst yourselves you parents out there before coming out with that gem of an answer: "Of course we love our children, how could you even ask such a question?" Well, to tell you the truth, I believe some of you when you say you love your kids. But lurking out there is a species of parents who on family outings in a car put their little babies, not on the back seat strapped in a baby's seat, nor on the laps of their mothers' who are sitting in the front seat, nor in a baby's cot on the floor of the car, but right above the dashboard, lying down with their noses pressed flat against the windshields. Have you ever seen what happens to a packet of tissues when it is placed above the dashboard? By the end of the trip the packet of tissues looks like someone had played football with it and because the box had fallen down some 783 times the tissues inside almost look used. Not that this statistic should discourage you concerned parents who put your kids there. But if your kid grows up to be a demented child, I think you should know why. For a box of tissues it's gravity. For the baby it's the parents' idiocy.

Now, assuming these babies survive all these trips and they live and grow older, you find their parents driving along with no worries on their minds as their now two and three year old demented kids swing half their bodies outside the car windows with their hair flying as they squirt their eyes in the wind.

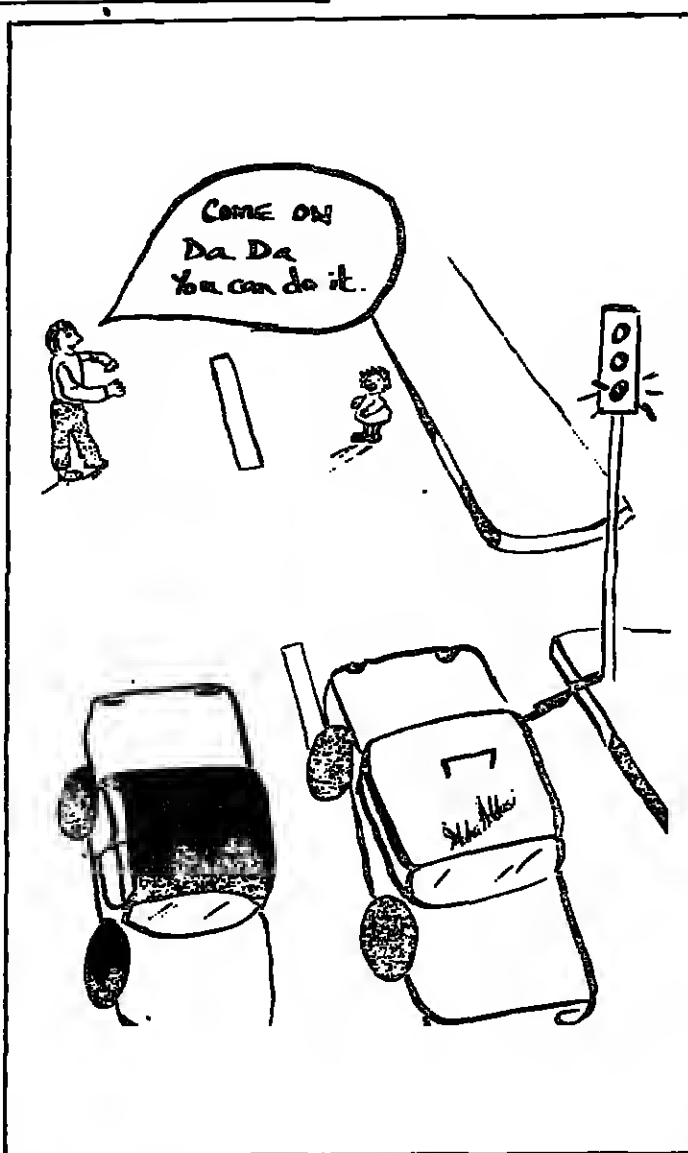
It seems that parents love them they will have a very hard time to control their people of that.

Another way in which some parents express their "love" to their children whilst in a car is by placing their kids on their laps while they drive.

"What a lovely little deal here! Are people trying to get rid of their kids somehow? You know 'kill' them with kindness." This is the case, I suggest they call the pied piper to take them to the woods. That would be a less traumatic way to go if you are a child.

Another concern that seems appropriate to mention here is the child's safety for teaching a toddler to walk.

The normal thing to do is let your child take his or her first steps on a flat surface where the worst thing that can happen to them is to fall on a carpeted floor. But I have witnessed parents in the act of teaching their kids to walk on a busy street, with one parent sending the kid off from the side of the street and the other parent standing by the other end. Even if the side street is busy, there is no need to get injured while waddling. I am sure that parents do not know about you, but I



categorise this act as murder in the first degree. Or it could be a trap. This is because if anyone as much as comes near their child with a car the parents would sue that driver so fast his head would spin, because that driver apparently jeopardised the life of their "beloved child." For once I am left speechless. I have no suggestions, or comments. And I rest my case.

A story about Nothing

By E. Yaghi

Mr. Nothing sat forsaken by the roadside in his ragged clothes, eating goober peas. In a loud voice to no one, he said, "Isn't this delicious, eating goober peas?"

A car sped past churning up a cloud of dust which settled on Mr. Nothing. He choked a bit, maybe on his goober peas or maybe on the dirt lodged in his windpipe but he ignored the occurrence. His face was as bland as baby food. He was Mr. Nothing so he would never make much ado about anything. His eyes stared blankly into nothing and nothing was on his mind. His brain was addled, his pocket bare and he had no profession. He was an all round nothing person, hence the name.

But at one time, Mr. Nothing had been a someone, had had a profession and possessed an enthusiastic mind. In some circles, he was almost known as clever and even kind of sophisticated, but one cloudy day, he fell down off his pedestal and cracked his head.

A few considerate passersby tried to put Mr. Nothing back together again like a jigsaw puzzle, but no matter how they struggled to fit the pieces, they came up with nothing. "Oh, the poor man!" one said. "We can't seem to make heads or tails out of him. Looks as if he'll be distorted for life. Wonder what he looked like before his fall?"

Another, feigning to be an authority about nothingness, said, "Well, he was nothing much to look at anyway, so no great loss. However, he used to wear a smile on his face and chase after invisible butterflies and speak incoherent phrases about reaching unreachable stars and dreaming impossible, dreams and lighting fires on the moon. But look at him now! Doesn't seem like he'll be doing much searching from now on!"

He then slapped his friend on the back and both strangers walked away laughing. Mr. Nothing didn't laugh. He didn't cry either. He simply had no feeling and sat looking stupid, doing nothing.

Thus his existence began as a numb human thing. Once quite particular how he dressed and with a sizeable portion of his allowance dedicated to his wardrobe, he played the grand game. But that was long ago when he could think. He had lived on an estate like a nobleman. Now he had no job, no money, no luck, no sense. He lived in a tent made of old newspapers. Because he didn't have a door, the wind flapped about his hovel, ripping at its walls and tearing down some of the structure. But Mr. Nothing felt nothing

so he was oblivious to the howling winds, the black nights with no stars and the desert cold that seeped under his skin, giving him goose bumps and turning him purple.

When Mr. Nothing wasn't eating goober peas, he was begging for money. To some it seemed they could spy a tear in his eye when he stretched out his tin cup waiting for the plink plunk of a coin or two. Yet, it was known that Mr. Nothing had no feelings anyway so that tear must be from rough winds that lashed at his face and eyes and ruffled his hair and rent his tattered clothes.

Somehow Mr. Nothing grew a beard. With the passage of time and because of his fall, few recognised him for the somebody he once had been. He was known by most to be simply what he had become nothing. Every once in a while, even Mr. Nothing got bored. So he counted fleas on sheep or feathers on peacocks or pebbles on beaches. But he could only count so far so then he'd have to begin at one and work his way up to cipher as this was what was on his mind anyway. At other times, he would scribble senseless forms in the dirt with a twig. A child could have done better.

Mr. Nothing was where he should be. It just wouldn't do to think he belonged with intelligent someones, who thought about relevant concerns such as the latest streaked hair styles of Persian lambs or crazy clown clothes or hot greasy gossip. Some witty people could be so apropos. Mr. Nothing was definitely not in their league. No, No, No! These subjects were much too sophisticated for Mr. Nothing. He was only fit to not think, have no opinions, hopes, dreams, ideas or to possess qualities known in some places as duty, faithfulness and complete dedication. Even when he was a somebody, he used to speak in riddles. Few had understood him then. None understand him now.

If you care to see a nobody called Mr. Nothing, who lives in an empty tent made of old newspapers under the starless black night in the desert cold, then just go where your dreams are and you'll find him in your heart, doing, speaking, hearing and thinking nothing. After all, isn't that what he's supposed to do and isn't this what life is all about — nothing? Perhaps if Mr. Nothing remains blank and bland as baby food, he might be forgiven for something! But ah, Mr. Nothing, they were not listening then, they're not listening still, perhaps they never will.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nothing sits by the roadside, eating goober peas, suffering amnesia, knowing it's no use to carry on, when all he had been living for is gone.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 6

8:30 Day By Day

My World And Welcome To It
It would seem that doing a good job is not exactly like loving the job itself.

9:10 Deadly Intentions

When Catherine marries Charles, she thinks she is in for an ordinary cozy marriage life. She is wrong.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Ordinary People
Starring Donald Sutherland and Mary Moore

The story of an ordinary family and what would happen to the inner relations of the family when something goes wrong.

Friday, June 7

8:30 Night Court

Daddy For The Defence

Christine is the newly appointed lawyer to court, and her daddy wants the whole world to know it.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

The Hammer And The Glove
A murder is committed in town that involves FBI agents.

Saturday, June 8

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

The subject of romance is on everybody's mind and the question is who is the most romantic of all?

9:00 Encounter

Rami Khouri hosts Dr. Yousef Saygh, a political economist. Topic of discussion: The economic consequences of the Gulf war on the region and the positive steps needed to remedy economic problems.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Double Deal Gang

Starring: John Saxon and Frank Wolf

A gang of three manages to steal \$400,000. First they worry about which of the three gets to steal the money, and it becomes which other gang is going to steal it.

Sunday, June 9

8:30 Yes Minister

The Official Visit

The head of an African state plans to visit Britain, but he is removed from power just before the visit.

9:10 One World

The Earth In Balance

A Personal View Of The Environment
Environmental hazards, such as water pollution, acid rain and the likes, are all

man-made, and man must come to grips with this fact before he sets out to solve them.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

A House Divided

Villains take Miss Lawson and the kids as hostages, and make out a list of tough demands from towns people. Ethan decides to stop them from running away.

Monday, June 10

8:30 Empty Nest

It would seem that old doctors never fade away. Dr. West seems to believe so, and defends this view.

9:10 Nancy Wake

While Henry suffers in prison, his wife trains with the British special forces. Meanwhile cooperation between the French Resistance and the British is marred by a clash of dignity.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder In Texas

Starring: Farrah Fawcett
Texas 1968: Dr. John Hill is married to the daughter of an influential rich man Ash Robinson. On the surface, it looks like a happy marriage, beneath the surface, it isn't. The father and the daughter want to preserve the marriage, but he doesn't.

Tuesday, June 11

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Larry resorts to lying to free himself from some dating obligations. Palki disagrees with his friend's action and teaches him a lesson in rectitude.

9:10 Adventures In Space

The New Frontiers

This documentary gives an account of man's historical major attempts at invading space. During the late 60s man finally walks on the moon.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Le Samurai Policier

Wednesday, June 12

8:30 After Henry

The Birthday

Sarah and Clare prepare, in secret, the grandmother's birthday party, but the grandmother's nosiness threatens to reveal this well-guarded secret.

9:10 Our House

Past Tense, Future Tense

Christie wins a radio contest, she cleverly uses her prize to solve an old family feud.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

Finally the Conman's victims decide to get together and conceive a plan to get even with him.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

many's military future to NATO allies.

Friday, June 7

1691 — Spain and Portugal, by Treaty of Tordesillas, agree to divide the new world between themselves.

1845 — Peace of Andres ends England's war with France and Scotland.

1857 — England declares war on France as an ally of Spain, and Scots invade England.

1672 — Dutch defeat combined British and French fleet in Southwold Bay, England.

1862 — Britain and United States sign treaty for suppression of slave trade.

1866 — Prussian troops march into Holstein.

1905 — Norwegian Storting decides on separation from Sweden.

1940 — Organised resistance against German invaders ends in Norway in World War II.

1942 — Battle of Midway in Pacific ends in major U.S. victory over Japanese in World War II.

1967 — Israeli forces driving into Egypt reach banks of Suez Canal.

1970 — Voters in Switzerland reject proposal to force almost one-third of a million aliens to leave that country.

1973 — United States withdraws its last combat aircraft based on Nationalist Chinese island of Taiwan.

1987 — Senior Communist Party and government officials in Czechoslovakia are implicated in major corruption trial.

1988 — First contingent of Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka 10 months previously to enforce peace accord is withdrawn.

1989 — Foreign embassies rush to get their nationals out of Peking, with much of China appearing on verge of chaos.

1990 — U.S. House of Representatives voted to bar the sale of computers and telecommunications gear to Soviet Union until Moscow begins negotiating Lithuania's independence.

Saturday, June 8

1623 — British and Portu-

guese defeat Spaniards at Amegial.

1883 — France, by convention of Marsa with Bey of Tunis, gains effective control of Tunisia.

1915 — Allied forces take Neuville in France from Germans in World War I.

1925 — Britain and France accept in principle Germany's proposals for security pact to guarantee Franco-German and Belgo-German boundaries.

1942 — Japanese submarines shell Sydney, Australia, in World War II.

1965 — U.S. troops in Vietnam are authorised to engage in offensive operations.

1973 — Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco relinquishes some of his power by naming Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco as premier.

1976 — Large force of Syrian troops moves into Lebanon, where civil war rages.

1987 — Seven civilians die in clash between grenade-throwing Tamil rebels and police commandos on main street of Batticaloa in Sri Lanka.

1988 — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tells United Nations that Moscow would observe permanent moratorium on nuclear testing if United States also agrees.

1989 — South Africa's President P.W. Botha appears intent on extending state of emergency for fourth year although black unrest has subsided.

1990 — Czechoslovakia holds its first free elections in 44 years; Vaclav Havel is elected president.

Sunday, June 9

68 — Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide.

1572 — Turkish fleet puts to sea against Don John of Austria to complete capture of Cyprus.

1752 — French forces at Trichinopoly in India surrender to British.

1827 — Turkey rejects allied note for truce with Greece.

1896 — Russo-Japanese agreement recognises Russia's position in Korea.

1915 — Severe riots break out in Moscow.

1916 — Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca revolts against Turkey.

1940 — Norway's army surrenders to Nazis in World War II.

1961 — United Nations calls on Portugal to cease repressive measures in Angola.

1967 — Jamal Abdul Nasser resigns as president of Egypt after his country is defeated in war with Israel.

1972 — U.S. planes raid perimeters of Hanoi and Haiphong in most concentrated bombing of North Vietnam's military heartland in more than four years.

1975 — Philippines established diplomatic relations with China, breaking its ties with Nationalist Chinese government in Taiwan.

1984 — Heavy damage and casualties are reported as Iran and Iraq trade air attacks on residential areas across their 1,180-kilometre border.

1989 — Two bombs blow up seconds apart on main seaside boulevard in Syrian-controlled west Beirut, killing three people and wounding four others.

1990 — The Liberian government and rebels agreed to attend peace talks.

Monday, June 10

1891 — L. Starr Jameson becomes administrator of South Africa Company's areas.

1898 — U.S. Marines invade Cuba in Spanish-American war.

1903 — King Alexander I and Queen Draga of Serbia are murdered.

1907 — Japan and France agree to preserve "open door" in China.

1917 — Sinn Fein riots break out in Dublin, Ireland.

1942 — German Gestapo kills male residents of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for assassination of a German official.

1967 — Israel agrees to United Nations ceasefire with Egypt.

1971 — United States lifts 21-year-old embargo on trade with China.

By The Associated Press

B.C.



Warner Bros. moves into down under

By Winsor Dobbin

The Associated Press

SURFERS PARADISE Australia — Australians can get a slice of Hollywood starting Sunday at Warner Bros. New multimillion-dollar theme park, Movie World.

The park provides a behind-the-scenes look at many facets of movie-making, including real films in production.

The park is expected to be Australia's biggest man-made attraction. The owners are predicting 1.4 million visitors in the first 12 months.

The attractions will allow audiences to participate in the creation of special effects, sound-effects dubbing, music scoring and other filmmaking processes.

"Main Street" includes precise replicas of buildings that have appeared in Warner Bros. films. The visual-effects

stage features the World War II bomber used in the movie *Memphis Belle* while rides include those based on Looney Tunes and Gremlins themes.

Sound Stage Five features one of the world's largest tanks for filming under and above the water.

"What makes this park different is that other theme parks' backlots are all phoney facades. On our one, real movies can, and will, be shot," said the man who created Movie World, American designer C.V. Wood.

Tom Selleck, Linda Blair, William Hurt, Bryan Brown and Sam Neill already have worked on movies at the studios.

The TV series *Mission Impossible* is filmed there and at nearby locations, as is the Australian export *Dolphin Cove*. Robert Ulrich soon will begin filming *Savage Sea*.

Wood, 70, husband of former screen star Joanne Dru,

has built six theme parks — including Disneyland and Six Flags Over Texas — and seven residential developments during his career. This is his first venture outside the United States.

"Towns are tougher than theme parks," he said. "With a theme park you have to figure out how to keep people happy for six hours. With towns you have to keep them happy for a lifetime."

He has designed Movie World around the original small studios built 13 miles north of Surfers Paradise by producer Dino De Laurentiis in 1986.

"All our surveys tell us this will work," Wood said. "The weather, the resident and transient population and the beautiful land around the studio are all in our favour."

Almost 2 million people live within an hour's drive of the park, and the resort strip is the holiday destination for

one in seven Australians every year. The region 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Brisbane is the fastest-growing area in the nation.

There are five other theme parks in the area, including the current no. 1, Sea World. Its owners are partners with Warners in Movie World.

Warners' research has shown there is no reason to worry whether an American-style park will go over well with Australians.

"There are no real differences," Wood said. "Big movies are big movies around the world. People are the same."

Warners is not releasing the cost of the 415-acre (166-hectare) park, but industry insiders put it close to \$140 million.

Movie World will employ more than 400 "Cast Members," which has made it a

welcome addition with locals. Australia's economy has been slumping for months.

"If anything, we think the recession will work for us," said Marketing Manager Neil Timmins. "In tough times, people are looking for opportunities to escape reality."

Clint Eastwood, Goldie Hawn, Mel Gibson and Kurt Russell were among the Hollywood stars who flew down under to attend the pre-opening party.

Admission will cost 29 Australian dollars (\$22.60) for adults and \$19 dollars (\$14.30) for children, which includes all attractions.

Movie World is designed so visitors will be able to see all the attractions in one visit, even on peak days.

Although the park is aimed primarily at Australians, the owners hope American and Japanese tourists also will visit. There will be Japanese subtitles and guides fluent in

Japanese, timing said. Disney's Tokyo Theme Park is the only other major American-style theme attraction in the world, although Disney also has plans for a Paris Disneyland.

"The United States is saturated now," Wood said. "There is no concentration of population left to suit a major theme park, so developers are starting to look outside America."

Wood hopes to be involved in further overseas developments.

"I've had the time of my life here," he said. "I'd like to design one, maybe two, more parks after this one."

Wood says he would welcome a new challenge. Even though his career achievements also include being a world champion chili cook, buying London Bridge and designing Lake Havasu City, Arizona, he just can't stand being inactive.

Literary classics face changes in new translations

By Carrie Figdor
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Translators are revising the English editions of literary classics to render their style and content closer to what the authors wrote in Russian, French, Spanish and other languages.

A new translation of Fyodor M. Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, by the husband-and-wife team Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, may change the way non-Russian readers understand the novel and its author, Russian literature experts say.

"Russians say Americans can say nothing about Dostoevsky because they have never read him," Pevear said in a telephone interview from his home in Yerres, France.

"The atmosphere of his writing is falsified in English," Dostoevsky 1879-80 masterpiece isn't the only one undergoing fresh scrutiny. Other classics being retranslated include:

— Marcel Proust's *Remembrance Of Things Past*, by 1970 Pulitzer-prizewinning poet Richard Howard of New York. The first French edition appeared in eight volumes between 1913 and 1927.

— Austrian novelist Robert Musil's *The Man Without Qualities*, by Burton Pike of City University of New York. The book first appeared in German in 1952.

— Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca's greatest plays and complete poems, by Carmen Zapata and Michael Dewell of the Los Angeles-based Bilingual Foundation of the Arts and the National Repertory Theatre Foundation, and under the editorship of Garcia Lorca scholar Christopher Maurer at Vanderbilt University.

— Mexican writer Juan Rulfo's 1955 novel *Pedro Paramo*, by Margaret Sayers Peden, professor Emeritus of Latin American literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

— Short stories by Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore, by Krishna Dutta in London and Mary Lago, English professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The stories appeared in Bengali between 1891 and 1925.

What have English readers been studying all these years? In many cases, books that don't do justice to the writer, and thus the reader, many translators say.

The new translations often reflect a greater understanding of the text that stems from additional research into the writer's life and culture.

They also allow for a greater range of writing styles than in the past and for changes in English usage. In general, translators say, foreign works should be retranslated every 30 to 50 years to keep the books from growing "old" to the modern reader.

Dostoevsky, for example, had his characters speak in highly distinctive voices that earlier in this century were not considered good writing.

"The whole stylistic dimensions to his work were considered irrelevant or untranslatable," said Pevear, who described Dostoevsky in Russian as "extremely funny."

"In Musil's case, the text used for the original translation was not complete, in addition to other faults. In 1978, about 2,500 manuscript pages were added to the original German version. About 1,000 of these will be included in the new English edition."

The new Proust will be the first in English to be translated entirely by the same person, and will have a new title that is a direct translation of the French one: *In Search Of Lost Time*.

Howard is also using a more definitive French edi-

tion, published in 1987. Within Garcia Lorca, his new translators agree the English versions of the plays were impossible to recite and the poetic references to his Andalusian culture were misunderstood. The Spanish-language texts being used are also improved, as misprints were discovered when earlier printed versions were compared with manuscripts.

But the fact is that translations can never be perfect. "A translation is always an act of interpretation. It takes away the fields of ambiguity in the original work," said Rainer Schulte, director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Texas, Dallas.

The law and economics, however, often keep new translations from being published.

The market in translated works is small — about four per cent of total book sales in the United States, according to Peter Glassgold, co-chairman of the American Pen Club's Translations Committee — and has been growing slowly.

Publishers also have avoided doing them because, of the uncertainty of dealing with foreign literature and

the extra costs involved in obtaining copyrights, paying the translator, and more editing time. Translators have been, in general, a poorly paid lot who rarely get credit for their efforts.

Much translated literature would not be available at all if it were not for grants from public and private foundations, universities and the cultural ministries of the countries the author is from.

But the commercial success of two translated works — Gregory Rabassa's 1967 translation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez' 100 Years Of Solitude and William Weaver's bestselling 1983 translation of Italian novelist Umberto Eco's *The Name Of The Rose* — have decreased the resistance of publishers to working with translations and increased the visibility of the profession.

Another change came with amendments to U.S. Copyright Law. Since March 1989, U.S. law conforms to the internationally-accepted Berne Convention protecting literature and art, under which a work is copyrighted for the author's lifetime plus 50 years.

That spurred the rush of new public-domain translations of works by Garcia Lorca, who at age 38 was assassinated in 1936 by pro-Franco forces in the Spanish Civil War. Similarly, the works of Tagore, who in 1913 became the first Asian winner of the Nobel Literature Prize, came into public domain next year.

But perhaps most important has been the quality of foreign literature, notably the Latin American literary "boom" that began in the late 1950s, roughly with Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges.

Although the traditional insularity of American readers has kept the numbers of translated texts on the U.S. market relatively low.

Between 1,500 and 1,800 a year compared with 6,000 to 8,000 yearly in France or Germany, Schulte said — that has been changing since World War II, publishers and translators say.

"I think it's a function of a coming of age of readers around the world who want to learn about the world as described by people who live there," said Willis Regier, director of the University of Nebraska Press. "As language training here is still abysmal, our access to that world is through translation."

Literature seems to be one of the best ways to find a common centre between people of different places.

2 French film producers take up the challenge

By Patrick Olivier

The production of films is in danger. Television and big scale productions are limiting innovation. Two French producers innovate in their own way.

PARIS — There are clearly two main enemies to film production: Television and ... Hollywood. Television because the companies tend to only want certain kinds of films corresponding to a given formula, demanded by viewer-surveys. Films which do not fit into these categories are not bought in advance or coproduced. Film production thus finds itself dangerously impoverished. There is no room left for originality or discovery.

To draw the crowds, there remains big budget cinema, but, in this area, American films dominate and, these kinds of films also fit a given formula, imposed by the "majors" (thereby limiting creativity) and, secondly, their omnipresence all over the world presents a single-sided view of the world to the detriment of other aspects and other cultures.

Two men in France have decided to take up this double challenge: The independent producer Marin Karmitz, and Daniel Toscan du Plantier, a former head of Gaumont.

Marin Karmitz is the successful chairman and managing director of the MK2 company, the third biggest French cinema group. He has set the aim of maintaining the creativity and originality of cinema in France and in Europe. And he has given

himself the means to do so. He has decided that his company would do everything. Not only would it seek talented authors and produce their work, but it would also take care of the distribution of the films. A film depends on its distribution. If it is not distributed, there are no receipts and that means no films. So MK2 has its own auditoriums. A special, low-budget film will thus have its public in this specific network in which the public remains faithful to that kind of product. More classical films by established directors (such as Resnais, Chabrol and Malle) will be distributed according to their bigger budget. Lastly, Karmitz does not shun super-productions. Receipts from these finance the special sector.

MK2 operates like a publisher's. An anthology of verse is not treated like a bestseller. With this strategy, Karmitz allows young talent to blossom. Thanks to him Pavel Lounguine's *Taxi Blues* and Kokai Ogure's *Sting Of Death* came out. These were two pure Karmitz products with unknown authors, a small budget and international success.

Profitable films

Marin defines his overall view of cinema on a European scale "With their artistic tradition, Europeans are able

to create prototypes, elitist objects which are carefully chosen and enhanced. If these products do not exceed a certain cost, they can be profitable in Europe itself.

On the contrary, the Americans need to show their films abroad to make up for the expense of super-productions."

Toscan du Plantier has set out to counter-attack these super-productions. Unlike the very "independent" Karmitz, Toscan is a man from the inside who had made his career in big private and public organisations. But that does not stop him from having ideas. On the contrary, this condottiere, who lights up with enthusiasm as soon as

the seventh art is broached, has some far-seeing ideas. Since American films have a strong monopoly in the world, he decided to go and compete with them on the spot with the development of local production as an extra.

He is the head of Unifrance Film, an organisation for promoting the cinema abroad, and he set up France Cinema Diffusion (FCD) aimed at winning new markets. His first largescale operation took him to Brazil.

With its 150 million inhabitants, its film-loving tradition and its position as the hub of Latin America, Brazil proved to be an excellent test for the enterprising producer. He signed contracts for exclusive

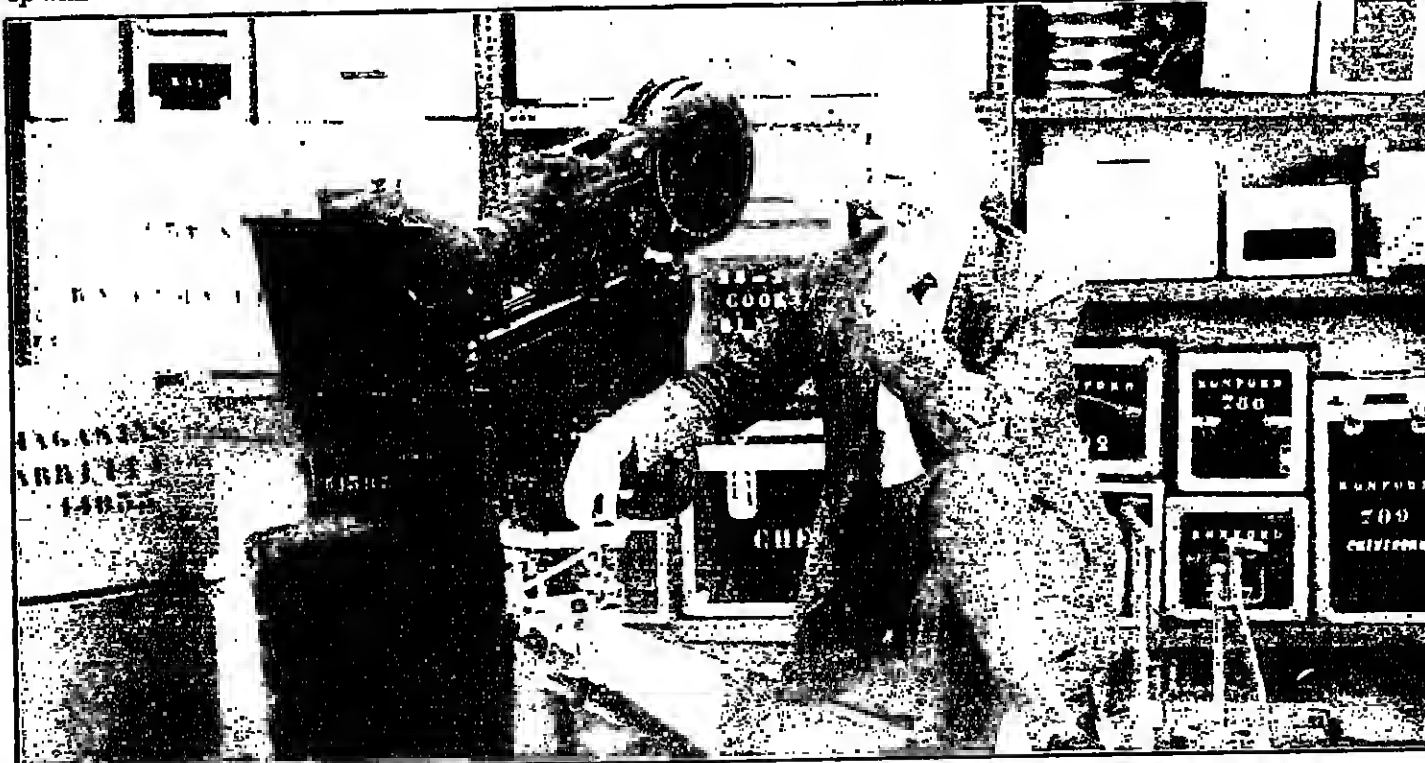
showings of the most profitable French films of the year, with forty cinema auditoriums in 32 towns. He also signed an agreement with the Abril Press Group which is to contribute its support in promoting the films and will show the films on its pay-television channel.

At the end of 1990, the operation was begun in Rio with Nikita, Jean-Luc Besson's film. 18 films have been launched on the circuit where Jean-Luc Godard's *Nouvelle Vague* has been a great success.

But France Cinema Diffusion goes even further. In a country where, just like everywhere else, television monopolises a large share of

the market with its serials and where the North-American cinema predominates, FCD has undertaken to produce films of Brazilian culture in the vein of the famous Cinema Novo whose masterpieces everyone remembers: *Vidas Secas*, *The Black God And The White Devil*, etc.

The first project is under way. It is to enable Nelson Pereira Dos Santos, the country's greatest director, to make *The Third Bank Of The River* with European backing. This is a way of encouraging film creativity in general, through Brazilian creation, far from the stereotypes of television or Hollywood-L'Actualite en France.



Daniel Toscan Du Plantier, French cinema's ambassador abroad.

Warsaw theatre is unique centre for Mozart opera

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuters

WARSAW — Where in the world during Mozart's bicentenary can you see all his operas and stage works masterfully performed by a single company? Salzburg? Vienna? Venice? London? No. The answer is Warsaw.

Amid all the Mozart galas and festivals in Europe this year only the Warsaw Opera Kameralna (Warsaw Chamber Opera) is offering the composer's full stage repertoire which includes 16 operas.

Performing in probably the world's smallest opera house — a lovingly converted 16th century Evangelical Church seating 200 — the Polish company has won acclaim for its exquisite productions in the style of Mozart's times.

The tiny theatre, whose stage and orchestra pit are built in the proportions of

Mozart's day, adds a special intimacy to performances which some experts and musicians hail as a unique musical experience.

"Ours is the only theatre in the world which performs all 23 of Mozart's stage works," says Stefan Sutkowski, founder and artistic director of Opera Kameralna.

"No other theatre does Mozart operas as chamber operas," he said in an interview. "I think we are the only one which does it right."

Staging the full repertoire during the Mozart festival he is organising this year will crown a lifetime's work for Sutkowski, who has built up the Opera Kameralna over 30 years.

He started in 1961 with a troupe of six musicians, two singers and a mime, performing classical chamber opera on any stage he could find.

Today Opera Kameralna has 60 soloist singers, 100

musicians in two orchestras and a repertoire of 50 works ranging from 12th century medieval dramas to Baroque and classic opera.

It has a flourishing particularly since 1986 when Sutkowski finally found a home — the elegant little theatre in a secluded Warsaw square whose restoration he personally supervised.

"My aim has been to establish a real professional centre of classical and especially Mozart opera in Warsaw," Sutkowski said.

Many foreign and Polish opera lovers think he has succeeded. They flock to Opera Kameralna, often in preference to Warsaw's massive 18th century Teatr Wielki (Grand Theatre) Opera House which boasts Europe's biggest stage.

"I would put the Opera Kameralna among the best operas anywhere in the world," said U.S. coloratura

tenor Barry Alexander after seeing its premiere of Mozart's musical drama *Lucio Silla*.

"In terms of musicianship and technical ability of the singers they are certainly world class," said Alexander, who will sing two roles with the company next season.

Stephan Nabe, director in Poland of the Goethe Institute, the German cultural foundation, says he is impressed to find music of such quality in Warsaw.

"It's a fantastic standard of musicianship," he said. "Most of the singing voices are a very high standard. Some of them are just out of the ordinary. Sutkowski is very purist in style and decor so attention is not distracted from the music and the art. Musically it's very impressive."

Sutkowski says it should be no surprise to find opera flourishing in Warsaw, since

Poland has a long operatic tradition.

When Eurydice was staged at the royal castle in 1626 — it was the first performance of an opera anywhere outside Italy.

Mozart opera also has a long tradition in Poland, where Lwow and Warsaw were the first cities after Vienna to stage *The Magic Flute* less than a year after Mozart's death.

Die Entfuehrung Des Serail was performed in Warsaw for King Stanislaw August Poniatowski in 1783, nine months after its Vienna premiere.

For maximum authenticity, Sutkowski has entrusted a single director, Ryszard Peryt, to stage all the Mozart works and a single designer to do all the sets and costumes.

"It's all coming from one head and it's the right way to do Mozart productions," Sut-

kowski said. "We are working with great care for Mozart as a musician, as a genius and as an operatic composer."

Sutkowski calls it a mistake to perform Mozart operas in big theatres, since those in Mozart's day were more the size of the Opera Kameralna than of the New York Metropolitan or London's Covent Garden.

Barry Alexander, who has given recitals in Carnegie Hall and across Europe, says small is best for singers, too.

"In larger houses the singer has to sacrifice quality for volume," he said. "Because this theatre is so small you can hear a pin drop and it allows the singer to refine and colour the music to get the greatest meaning from it."

"Anyone who wants to appreciate opera from the standpoint of style needs to see the Opera Kameralna of Warsaw."

Group calls for health warning on schizophrenia drug

Perhaps more significantly at this stage, the poll in the Observer newspaper also showed that the future of the National Health Service had become the issue about which both Conservative and Labour voters are most concerned.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 6-7, 1991



Abdul Jabbar Salman — from sand to infinity

By Adil Kamil

The following article is reprinted from the Baghdad Observer

THE pioneers' generation of painters has left a strong impact on the contemporary art movement in Iraq. With their return from studies and training in Paris, Rome and London, the art movement gained a new momentum. These artists were very active in planting the first seeds of modern art in Iraq.

The most important thing about the pioneers is that most of them became lecturers at the Fine Arts Academy and Fine Arts Institute.

Their distinguished role lies in motivating new groups of art lovers and enthusiasts, who in turn continued a leading role towards establishing a contemporary art movement in Iraq.

Among those artists was Abdul Jabbar Salman who was mostly influenced by Fa'iq Hassan and Isma'il Al Shaikhli, two veteran painters. Salman, a realist, was most influenced by environment and surroundings.

His paintings reflected a special sensitivity towards colours which almost reach the degree of transparency.

Salman justifies his being a realist by saying that realism provides "a basis for the future." It is like the importance of mastering language by writers and poets. So he spent the early beginning of his career depicting rural life, paying a special attention to the daily life of the farmers.

Until the early 1970s, Salman was known as a multifarious painter who showed no interest in depicting still life, but instead kept penetrating beyond objects, giving them the force of life itself.

Though his early paintings were almost documentary in nature, he later tended to deal with a new theme, the desert with all its features that differed from his familiar theme.

In this regard, Salman said that he "loved the space, the mystery of the sand, and those people — the bedouins — who live in the open air, away from cities."

The desert became his main concern and his favourite topic. When he went to Saudi Arabia, Salman was preoccupied with the sand, to the point of obsession as he was with the sun and ultimate space.

This preoccupation with the desert reflects a total rejection of modern European trends which dominated works of many painters and sculptors. Salman opted

not to imitate the European schools, in defiance of their great impact on the contemporary Iraqi art movement in particular, and on the Arab art movement in general. Abdul Jabbar Salman has also succeeded in establishing his own style and artistic vision away from the extremist trends in art.

Salman never tried surrealism or cubism, but he continued to paint what he actually saw on the one hand and reflected his originality and his own vision on the other. In both cases, the theme of the desert had stimulated him to study the colour of the sun and sand and their effects on the life of people.

Salman is a painter of the environment who does not care much for extremist trends and limited individual topics. He finds an argumentative interaction between what is subjective and what is objective. The world of the desert with all its mystery, coarse nature and immemorial history has attracted him. He has responded to this vast world which we rarely notice in the modern European trends.

Abdul Jabbar Salman is also a lover of open air and natural surroundings. In addition to that, his paintings are derived from reality and from the hidden memories of the new inhabitants of the cities.

Though he started with realism, he slowly and quietly developed his style to establish a highly individual style. In this way, he reminds us of Khalid Al Jadiri's experience, a magic experience with all its colours derived from Iraqi environment.

Salman did not give up the colour of the sun, the smell of the clay and the warmth of sand. With the passage of time — and along with the experience of more than 25 years — these symbols were developed into an artistic concept, peculiar to the artist and reflected in his sensitivity, which in his words evokes the depth of his vision.

The sensitivity seems as if taken from the concept of the desert, which has made him adopt a new style close to abstraction.

The artist's output shows his artistic development and his originality in choosing topics to paint and his attempts to give his local experience an international dimension. Starting with the sand, he leads his viewers to a mysterious world, vast, open and boundless. His world probably ponders the human psyche, which knows no limits.

Iraq in the eyes of a western reporter

AP reporter Mark Fritz and Kuwaiti translator Salah Zamani were arrested by Iraqi police May 12 at the Iraq-Kuwait border. They were taken to Baghdad, freed and escorted to the Jordanian border on a five-day, 1,120-kilometre journey through a nation reeling from war. Here is an account of the trip.

ALONG THE BAGHDAD HIGHWAY — To travel from one end of Iraq to the other is to see a wounded army struggling to its feet and an omnipresent police force in constant watch.

It is to see vehicles creeping past huge holes in sagging bridges, filthy children hawking American cigarettes on wind-blown roads, masses of black-robed women waiting for water rations in battered cities.

It is to see new paint splashed over old anti-government graffiti, slow repairs on blasted buildings and hundreds of punched-out poster frames being refitted with pictures of Saddam Hussein.

Most of all, it is to see men in uniform guarding checkpoints, examining passports, fixing tanks.

The Baghdad highway that crosses this enigmatic nation begins at the Iraq-Kuwait border, recently vacated by U.S. troops, and runs north to Basra, which was briefly held by Shi'ite Muslim rebels.

It swings west to Baghdad, where cab drivers point out bombed buildings as if they were landmarks, then slices through the desert to the Jordanian border. On the highway, trucks again carry food to a nation reeling from war and revolt.

The border town of Safwan, at Iraq's back door, is like a well-

worn mat crossed by Iraqi troops invading Kuwait. U.S. forces driving them back and thousands of refugees fleeing the Shi'ite revolt.

Two weeks ago, American troops vacated a zone that included Safwan and U.N. observers were deployed in their place. On May 11, Iraqi police, most sent from Baghdad, returned to establish civil authority. They were greeted with organised fanfare. Children sang and waved flags. Anti-Saddam slogans were painted over with new ones.

"Death to the traitors of Iraq," and "Saddam is the pride of loyal Iraq" are among the sayings now scrawled on sun-bleached stone buildings.

Electricity and mail delivery still have not been restored, but no one complains.

"The forces of Saddam are back in charge and everything is excellent," said Saad Turki, 22, a tomato farmer.

He said there was fighting when pro-Saddam residents began rounding up the leader's critics a few days before the police arrived.

"We took legal charges against them," he said, but would not elaborate.

Bombed-out tanks and trucks litter the 25-mile stretch of road from Safwan to Basra. Trucks too damaged tanks to a huge repair yard just south of the city.

The Iraqi army, once in disarray, is again organised and alert. Troops and armour are deployed in formation along the highway, just 30 minutes from Kuwait.

Basra bears deep scars from the Shi'ite uprising that spread through southern Iraqi cities after the war. The city hall is gutted.

Only the frame remains from a two-story portrait of Saddam that once adorned the building.

Authorities blame the rebels for damage to buildings and utilities. Independent reports say the army wrecked the towns while crushing the rebellions.

Iraqi police say many rebels were Iranians organised and armed by Iran, whose frontier is 15 miles from Basra.

But driver Youssef Ganas, 49, says he saw an Iranian helicopter pick up rebels outside the southern city of Nasiriyah.

A night spent in Basra was quiet. Electricity was cut off several times.

"The town is 100 per cent under control," a police official said.

"How is George Bush doing?" He asked a reporter, who replied that the U.S. president was doing fine after treatment for an irregular heartbeat.

"I hope he dies," the cop said, laughing.

Allied jets bombed bridges along the Baghdad highway. Many are punctured or dip like roller-coaster tracks.

Between Baghdad and Basra, half the twin span crossing the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers has collapsed. A pontoon bridge has been built for westbound traffic.

Farther west, Amarah bears the same scars of rebellion as Basra. Public buildings are in ruins.

In villages, crowds of women robed in black gather at giant tanks where soldiers distribute fresh water.

Innumerable peddlers, many of them children, line the highway and city streets, hawking American cigarettes, granola bars, Ira-

nian pistachios and other smuggled goods.

Youngsters spread their wares on cardboard boxes set up on roadsides and sidewalks. One grimy little boy sat forlornly, offering matchbooks for a few pennies each.

Women seem to do most of the physical labour, tilling fields, leading pack mules, balancing baskets of dates or grain on their heads. Most men are in uniform.

Policemen and soldiers hold privileged positions in Iraq. The right identity card gets a quick, reverential wave through checkpoints and at the front of long gas lines.

Many policemen drive late-model cars and trucks with Kuwaiti plates. In the suburban command centre of the Baghdad police department, young officers lounge, joke and drink tea for hours.

One day, an officer trooped a large man into his supervisor's office and said the prisoner was found with the identity card of a high-ranking soldier.

The man's wrists were bound behind his back with tape. His face was a portrait of terror. The much smaller police officer, clutching a thick elastic cord, hustled him back into the dim corridor.

Loud cracks and hysterical cries echoed off the grimy walls.

"No, please. Let me talk to someone so I can explain." The man screamed. He was dragged a bit, beaten, pulled down the corridor, beaten, until 15 minutes of anguished cries faded away.

The other officers were nonchalant. Nobody cocked an ear, traded a glance or looked up from his paperwork.

The stretch of highway from Baghdad to Jordan is one of the most forsaken places in Iraq. Sandstorms blot the sun with a blinding, azure fog of talem-like dust.

Even here, portraits of Saddam abound, dressed in blue suit and white tie, army green, Arab headdress — grinning, glaring, gazing.

A secret-police officer assigned to escort a reporter and interpreter out of Iraq tried to convince them of Saddam's greatness.

"I think Saddam is very strong," he said. "Thirteen countries must go against him: America, Britain, UH, Luxembourg ..."

He pondered a fourth finger and gazed off, trying to remember more.

Trailing their truck was a taxi hired to drive the officer back to Baghdad. The elderly driver said his 18-year-old daughter died while sleeping in the Baghdad bunker bombed by allied planes.

He said his son was a soldier in the Iran-Iraq war and was listed as missing. He expressed no bitterness or anger, only sorrow.

A tiny military post 200 miles west of Baghdad, in the heart of the desert that dominates western Iraq, was far from Kuwait, a region where the heaviest fighting occurred.

Nonetheless, a giant radio tower has been destroyed. An office said it was blown up by a company of nine U.S. Brad fighting vehicles.

He told an American report without rancor that two of 1 men were killed.

"Did you kill any of them?" The secret-police officer asked eagerly.

"No," the soldier said. "Did you wound any of them?" The policeman asked.

"No," the soldier said. The soldier had his mechan look at the reporter's stank truck. Poor Iraqi gasoline had gummed the fuel filter and carburetor.

Iraq has been unable to obtain necessary gasoline additives, and a common complaint that many cars no longer run.

Rutbah, 100 miles east of Jordan, is not so much a city as mammoth truckstop filled with parts stores, garages, restaurant and food shops, all catering men who earn their dinars plying the Baghdad highway.

Scores of stores sell smuggled goods including processed pastries from hated Saudi Arabia.

Despots preach democracy to Sudan

By Abdul Bari Atwan
From Al Ouds Al Arabi, London

NOBODY disputes the fact that General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his comrades in the "revolution of salvation" seized power in a military coup which put an end to a period of democratic rule in Sudan.

Neither can they dispute that Jaafar Numeiri came to power in the same way, or that he consolidated his rule over the years with blood. So Numeiri is hardly in a position to question the legitimacy of the present Sudanese regime or that of any other country, to criticise the recent amnesties, or to tell Bashir that he is not empowered to issue them. Numeiri's own history is replete with the granting and withdrawal of such amnesties. Moreover, he has the distinction of being the only modern Sudanese leader to have been swept from power by a mass popular revolution.

He is also the last person on earth entitled to criticise the implementation of Sharia laws, for it was in his glorious reign that they were first introduced — including the amputation of thieves' limbs and the whipping of alcohol drinkers. And it was he who became the first Sudanese military ruler to form a coalition with fundamentalist groups. Sudan today is suffocated by economic problems and crises. But they were not caused primarily either by the present regime or by the democratic government that preceded it. In the main they date

from the corruption of the Numeiri years. As he switched between the ideologies of the far left and extreme right, Sudan's resources turned into investments and companies based in London, Paris and Geneva.

I confess that I was horrified to see the miserable condition of Khartoum as I walked through its dusty, pot-holed streets. The rutted roads and dilapidated bridges looked as though they had not been maintained since the day they were built by the British. This was not the fault of the governments of the past four years, but the accumulation of many previous years of neglect.

The same can be said for Sudan's debts built up over the years when Numeiri and his group reigned. None of that bunch are even in jail now, although had this been another Arab country, it is doubtful any of them would still be alive.

We may differ with the Sudanese regime or agree with it. That is not the point. The issue is how can dignity be restored to Sudan, confidence returned to its people, and the wheels of production set in motion again so it can feed itself before progression to its much-touted status as "breadbasket of the Arab World."


Sudan needs democracy, yes. But we must also keep in mind that democracy cannot

be brought about by an alliance of undemocratic elements, or by tribal rulers who exploited the democratic period to make quick profits, milk the people dry, sell off donated oil cargoes or trade in the food shipments sent to the hungry.


We must also always remember that the states and regimes which most enthusiastically welcomed Bashir's take-over of power had besieged the democratic government and spared its effort to ensure it failed. One recalls the sad sight of Sadiq Al Mahdi travelling to the Gulf capitals, literally pleading for help in confronting famine and rebellion just weeks before Bashir's coup. His appeals were met with indifference, largely because he sought to maintain normal relations with Iran which at the time was considered an enemy by the Gulf states.

We were pleased to see the current regime release all political prisoners, though it must be stressed that the majority should never have been jailed in the first place. We were also pleased to see Sudan refuse to accept the humiliation of the IMF, and stand up for principle during the Gulf war rather than sell it for a handful of petrodollars.

But this can not substitute the desperate need for democracy and pluralism, not just in Sudan, but in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria and everywhere else in the Arab World.



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Edberg beaten by Courier

PARIS (R) — Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden was knocked out of the French Open tennis championships Wednesday, beaten in four sets by ninth seed Jim Courier of the United States.

Courier, who had never before reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal, beat the world number one 6-4 2-6 6-3 6-4 to move on to Friday's semifinal with 12th seed Michael Stich of Germany.

Courier had beaten Edberg once before, at Basel in 1989, before the Swede was no. 1, but had lost their last three encounters.

"I pretty much played my normal game," Courier said. "It's the first time I've beaten the no. 1 player in the world... I'm a little bit happy."

Courier benefitted from numer-

ous errors by Edberg, including two in the final game. The American also was lucky — his decisive service break in the seventh game of the last set came when he seemed to mis-hit the ball and it looped over Edberg's head as the Swede charged the net.

The last time the United States had two semifinalists was in 1984, when John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors before losing the final to Ivan Lendl.

Stich's advance gave Germany two French Open semifinalists for the first time in the tournament's history.

Stich, an occasional practice partner of Becker but not a close friend, said he would prefer to meet Becker rather than Agassi if he makes the final.

"His game is a bit easier for me

to play than Agassi," Stich said. "An all-German final would be great for German tennis."

Stich said he, like all other German players, can't help but feel they are in Becker's shadow. "He's just better than all the other players," Stich said.

The women's semifinals, scheduled for Thursday, involve perhaps the four best clay-court players in the world, and all four are eager for the showdowns after many tediously easy matches in the early rounds.

"When I get to the semis, it's a relief," said Monica Seles, the top seed and defending champion. "I know from here on in I have to play great tennis."

First in line for Seles is one of the two women vying to usurp her no. 1 ranking, third-seeded Gab-

riela Sabatini. Each has lost only one set in the first five rounds. Steffi Graf, also in the hunt for the no. 1 spot, plays Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in Thursday's other semifinal. It's a battle of two former French Open champions, neither of whom has lost a set thus far.

The only semifinalist who hasn't won the tournament before is Sabatini, owner of the best won-lost record on the tour this year.

"I have a very tough match," Seles said. "If I win, I have another tough match."

One of the men's semifinals was set Tuesday, when Boris Becker and Andre Agassi demolished their quarterfinal foes. Agassi routed Jakob Hlasek in 75 minutes, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1, while



Stefan Edberg

Becker said he played "almost perfect" tennis against Michael Chang, winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. Agassi and Becker have split their six head-to-head matches, with Agassi winning the last three.

Sabatini had the toughest prelude to the semifinals. Twice a point from defeat against Jana Novotna, she battled to a 5-7, 7-6 (12-10), 6-0 victory, winning 10 of the last 11 games in what she described as one of her greatest comebacks.

Sabatini trailed 5-2 in the second set before rallying, and she twice saved match points in the tie-breaker. That seemed to demoralize Novotna, the sixth seed, who succumbed meekly in the final set.

"I gave everything in the first two sets," Novotna said. "I felt there was not much left mentally to fight for."

Sabatini, like the other semifinalists, said she was looking forward to the upcoming showdowns.

"Now, it will be the big match," said the Argentine, whose record this year is 40-3.

Seles won 6-0, 7-5 over seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain, who dropped the first set in 23 minutes but battled gallantly in an hour-long second set.

Graf improved her career record against France's Nathalie Tauziat to 14-0 with a 6-3, 6-2 victory. Sanchez Vicario, seeded fifth, overpowered no. 4 seed Mary Joe Fernandez, also 6-3, 6-2.

Sanchez Vicario, who as a 17-year-old beat Graf in the title match here two years ago, said she felt no quibbles about a rematch.

"I have nothing to lose," she said. "I'll go out and play my game."

Graf also was asked about the 1989 final.

"People will always remember it," she said. "But I'll try to make the memory change and do better this time."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Kankkunen wins Acropolis Rally

LAGONISSI, Greece (R) — Finn Juha Kankkunen, driving a Lancia, won the 1,776-km Acropolis Rally Wednesday, the fifth round of the world championship. Kankkunen finished 58 seconds ahead of Spanish world champion Carlos Sainz in a Toyota. Italy's Massimo Biasion, also in a Lancia, was third.

Generous wins Epsom Derby

EPSOM, England (R) — Alan Munro, widely tipped as a future champion jockey, won his first Epsom Derby horse racing classic Wednesday with 9-1 chance Generous. Munro, 24, and riding in only his second derby, sent Generous clear with 400 metres to race and was not troubled to hold off 14-1 Shot Marju, the Mount of Willie Carson, by five lengths. Irish raider star of Gdansk, ridden by Christy Roche, also at 14-1, made late headway to snatch third place. Munro, who rode a 20-1 winner in the race prior to the Derby, has just returned from four days suspension. The victory was a brilliant start to his new association as retained jockey to Saudi Arabian Prince Fahd Salman.

Colombian suspension to be lifted

ASUNCION (R) — Colombia's home match ban will be lifted November 30, the South American Football Confederation (CSF) said Tuesday. The CSF suspended Colombia from hosting internationals last September after gunmen threatened match officials before a Libertadores Cup game between Atletico Nacional de Medellin and Brazil's Vasco Da Gama a month earlier. A CSF official said it was believed Colombian soccer had overcome the violent circumstances which led to the incident.

Hearn doesn't plan retirement

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Just when he was supposed to be planning his retirement, Thomas Hearns finds himself planning his boxing future. A day after upsetting previously undefeated Virgil Hill to win his sixth world title, Hearns mullied his options as the World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight champion. "I'm definitely revived with this fight," Hearns said Tuesday. "It opened up a lot of people's eyes in the boxing world. People thought Thomas Hearns was tired and finished in boxing. That's not the case at all." Hearns, supposedly washed up at the age of 32, won a portion of the 175-pound (79.5-kilogramme) title for a second time, taking a unanimous decision over an opponent five years his junior while handling Hill his first loss in 31 fights.

Lendl wins first match

BECKENHAM, England (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl, returning to action after a hand injury, downed Britain's Jonathan Haycock 6-2, 6-4 Tuesday in the Beckenham grass court tennis tournament. Lendl, who withdrew from the French Open because of the injury, showed no signs of discomfort during the 64-minute second-round match. Meanwhile, Pat Cash, the 26-year-old Australian is also competing in the grass court tournament as a warm-up to Wimbledon. He defeated Jake Martyn of Britain 6-3, 6-1.

Walker wins 8th stage in Milk race

SWANSEA, Wales (AP) — Overall leader Chris Walker snatched victory in the eighth stage of the round-Britain Milk Race

Tuesday after a mass sprint to the finish line. Seventy-four riders were credited with the same time as Walker, covering the 117 miles (188 kilometres) in 4 hours 56 minutes 14 seconds. Dutchman Boh Rassenberg was second and Jan Bogaert of Belgium was third. Overall, Walker was 22 seconds ahead of Simeon Hemsall of England and another three seconds ahead of Keith Reynolds, also of Britain. American cyclist Darren Baker maintained his high overall position as the 87 riders tackled their toughest day in the ride from Gloucester over five climbs. Baker finished 28th and remained eighth overall, one minute and 58 seconds behind Walker with four days to go in the 1,150-mile (1,850-kilometre) race.

Chioccioli retains pink jersey

FELINO, Italy (AP) — Italy's Massimo Ghirotto rode alone for the last 60 kilometres Tuesday and captured the ninth stage of the Tour of Italy by 31 seconds — his first career victory in the Giro. Franco Chioccioli, who finished 14th — amidst the main pack 1 minute and 23 seconds behind the winner, retained the pink jersey of overall leader. It was the fifth straight day Chioccioli had maintained his eight-second advantage over Spanish veteran Marino Lajarreta and 57-second margin over Claudio Chiappucci in third. Lajarreta, Chiappucci, Frenchman Laurent Fignon and defending champion Gianni Bugno completed the stage in the same time as Chioccioli. American Greg Lemond, who had difficulty on two tough mountain passes in the last part of the stage, finished 13:22 behind Ghirotto and severely hurt his chances for a first-ever victory in the Italian Tour. The three-time Tour De France winner fell more than 16 minutes behind Chioccioli.

Borg training for comeback

ROME (AP) — Bjorn Borg is training for his comeback in a Grand Slam tennis tournament but it's unlikely it will be at Wimbledon next month, his trainer said Tuesday. Paolo Bertolucci, a former Italian Davis Cup player who is supervising Borg's workouts at Riano, near Rome, said the 31-year-old Swede has not yet decided which kind of racket to use in his next tournament appearance, wherever that might be. Using an obsolete wooden racket, the five-time Wimbledon champion lost a first-round match in straight sets to unseeded Spaniard Jorde Arrese in Monte Carlo in April. Borg's appearance in Monaco was his first following a eight-year retirement from professional tennis. Borg has been testing several modern, mid-size rackets in Riano. Bertolucci said Wimbledon organisers are willing to give Borg a wild card for the next edition of the most prestigious European tournament "but I am 99 per cent sure he will not play there."

Inter negotiates German player, new coach

MILAN (AP) — UEFA Cup champion Internazionale Of Milan is negotiating for the transfer of German midfielder Matthias Sammers and may sign another German, Franz Beckenbauer, as coach, club sources reported Tuesday. Sammers, 21, who plays with Stuttgart in the Bundesliga, would replace countryman and defender Andreas Brehme on Inter Roster. Brehme is expected to join Verona, which earned promotion from the Italian second division to the major league next season. Inter has already said its German pair of Lothar Matthaus and Jurgen Klinsmann will return next season. Beckenbauer, whose contract with Olympique Marseille expires this month, would replace Giovanni Trapattoni, who has re-joined Juventus of Turin.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Friends can do some very startling things that leave you wondering unless you realize planetary forces are at work testing all those involved.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find that you need to be more careful where any rules or laws are concerned now and need to make certain you do vocational activities well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) So many new ideas are pressing you to make some drastic changes that you are very much tempted to do so but study your new interests carefully.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have all kinds of responsibilities now that should be carried through so lose no time but make a special point to carry through.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to see the various associates you want to put a new plan in effect with but don't buck them now if they do not agree completely.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your day to actually show you are the one who can work without making demands on others to do part of your job that you have to do.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You want to have a good time but there is some confusion existing between you and others and

who pays the paper is not just clear so spell out your desires.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you have all kinds of ambitions to bring to light the best that exists in your home-life but you need first to consult with family members.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Watch out on the highway, drive slowly and carefully and say or do nothing that could ink any usual ally with whom you want to keep on friendly terms.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are eager to make some changes in methods so that you will have more income but be sure you don't merely add to your expenses by so doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is your day to make sure you do not act in that different from others manner which is a nature part of your nature and ability.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever requires that you quietly operate behind the scenes in your situation is very good now so study and prepare for new success.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he gets ahead in life by meticulous approaches that may seem to be taking too long to the average observer, who will want to rush them. Make sure that this doesn't occur and to teach this property all about the "birds and bees" for they will most likely need to know at an early age.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Dieting makes me crazy! I started licking food stains off the furniture and before I knew it I ate the sofa!"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A vitally important day and evening to go along with what others expect of you or you can friends or support. Avoid a confrontation with a contentious in the PM.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Much contemplation and though can bring answers that are most satisfactory to you and which you would like to live under for the coming days.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your present circle of friends seem to have gone into a rut with you but you are able to change that now so there is a new electricity present.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your worldly position in some respect need to be reconsidered and thought out along lines that give you more success in public and in other way.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are a considerable number of new ideas that now occur to you but you need to be prepared to make some drastic changes if you accept them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to get the tasks at hand and get rid of them by doing them yourself and not expecting associates to lift a finger by your ideas.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study what you can do that brings you the greatest amount of pleasure at the least cost and join friends and make in recreations you all like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Listen to what your own family has to say about how they feel you can have more success in the world

of outside activity and follow their advice.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about that course that can bring you more rewards of a pleasant nature and take some of the burden from you for a little while so you can relax.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do those things now that can eliminate the tensions and the strain you have been under with some near members of your family will enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are a number of discussions to be held with allies that can so improve your usual routines that the future can be much brighter for you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have your mind rightly set on finances, whether it be in daily expenses and budgeting, to take a trip or regarding your property.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take some time out to look at your personal appearance and see what you can do to make it more attractive and pleasing to the eye of those around.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he understands what is in the mind of others and to help them considerably to replace their anxieties with a new approach that can take away worry and apprehension. Avoiding all kinds of adversities applies to their life too which creates a special peace and harmony.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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SEEKING SHOULD NOT BE BELIEVING

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ A Q J 10 6 4
♦ 9
♣ A K 8

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ K 7 3 2
♦ K 5 2
♣ J 10 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 5 4
♥ 8
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ 9 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠ East found a brave defense against South's six-spade contract. But the question remains: Should South have taken the bait? With a fit for opener and a near self-sufficient suit, North had more than enough for a jump shift. When South could do no more than rebid three spades, North cue-bid his clubs and, after South showed diamond values, North bid what he thought his side could make. A very

intelligent auction.

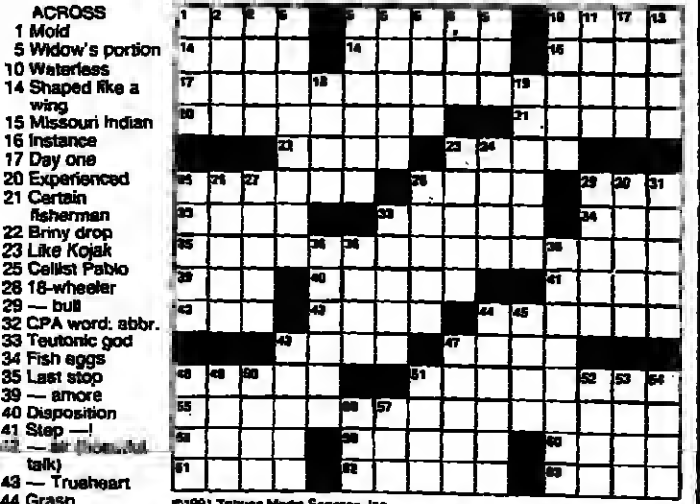
Declarer won the opening club lead in dummy and drew trumps in three rounds, ending in hand. Then came a heart to the ten. East realized that if he took his king it was tantamount to surrender, so he allowed the ten to hold. Declarer continued by cashing the ace of hearts, discarding a club from hand, and then leading the queen. When East followed with the seven, the only heart missing was the king. Since that card was "marked" with West, declarer ruffed confidently. When West showed out, declarer could no longer establish and cash the long hearts, so the "cold" slam went down two tricks.

At duplicate there might be some excuse for failing to make the contract, although it is our experience that just bidding and making a slam earns well above average. At rubber bridge, it is inexcusable. Declarer jeopardized over 1,400 points for the sake of an overtrick.

Instead of greedily ruffing the queen of hearts, declarer should simply have discarded a diamond. West was welcome to the king of hearts. If he held it, declarer would win any return and, with a high club in dummy as an entry to the hearts, there were more than enough tricks to guarantee the slam.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold S. Counts



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Taxis
2. Shattered
3. Longing
4. Relating to certain regions
5. Prime
6. Willow
7. Magician's rod
8. Urge
9. Old make of car
10. Played possum
11. Track
12. Woe
13. Hind

14. Carol
15. Car
16. Brown — (apple pudding)
17. Eastern nurse
18. Unsupervised condition
19. Sneezing sound
20. Bloodhound's clue
21. Ovensports
22. Publish
23. Architecture style
24. Effective means of enforcement
25. Inferior
26. Country
27. — Scott
28. Great noise
29. Stopped
30. Not clerical
31. Expression of happiness
32. Ails
33. Under the covers

34. Son of Jacob
35. Attention-getting sound
36. Military award
37. Despite the fact that

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close (Date 5/6/1991)	Tokyo Close (Date 5/6/1991)
Sterling Pound	1.6995	1.6965
Deutsche Mark	1.7450	1.7466
Swiss Franc	1.4916	1.4935
French Franc	5.9120	5.9290
Japanese Yen	158.65	159.17
European Currency Unit	1.1745	1.1735

1 USD Per 100 J.O.D.
European Typing: 1000 J.O.D. = 1 M.T.

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 5/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sterling Pound	11.43	11.12	11.00	10.87
Deutsche Mark	8.90	9.00	9.06	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.81
French Franc	9.50	9.43	9.43	9.37
Japanese Yen	7.31	7.25	7.25	7.31
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 5/6/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	362	6.70	Silver	4.17	.096

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.663	.665
Sterling Pound	1.1602	1.1660
Deutsche Mark	.3913	.3933
Swiss Franc	.4581	.4604
French Franc	.1156	.1162
Japanese Yen	.4908	.4933
Dutch Guilder	.3471	.3491
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.01906	.01916

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	.0740	.0760
Saudi Riyal	.1817	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.845	1.850
Qatari Riyal	1.900	2.050
Egyptian Pound	1.7450	1.7650
Omani Riyal	1.845	1.850
Greek Drachma	1.4150	1.4250
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4250

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	3/6/1991	Close	4/6/1991	Close
All-Share	113.15		112.69	
Banking Sector	110.30		109.69	
Insurance Sector	113.06		112.94	
Industry Sector	115.49		115.18	
Services Sector	128.56		128.50	

December 31, 1990 = 100

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia become OECD partners

PARIS (R) — Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland joined the fast track to full membership of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Tuesday.

Ministers from the three former communist countries signed an agreement making them "partners in transition" of the OECD, one of the developed world's main economic think-tanks.

The ministers denied at a news conference that the OECD was pushing them too fast towards capitalism, with the risk of heightened social protest.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said: "We had a tough regime until November 1989... for our population, it is accepted political that we need to make the reforms as quickly as possible."

Mr. Bela Kadar, Hungary's minister of international economic relations, said: "The speed of the transition is not dictated by outside forces but by the opportunities, possibilities and constraints of economic circumstances in the three countries."

He said OECD countries could help by opening up their markets to goods such as textiles, steel and agricultural products.

Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, referring to unfair trade practices that dominated discussion at Tuesday's OECD ministerial meeting, told the news conference:

"It may be absolutely crucial for the reforms that we gain access to Western countries. I wish that the West would not give us such a bad example in some sectors."

Mr. Dienstbier said the West could also help by channelling the aid it would eventually provide to the Soviet Union towards the purchase of goods from the eastern European countries.

"The Soviet Union has lots of money but no capacities, we have plenty of capacity but no money," he said.

The OECD and the three countries will work out individually tailored programmes aimed at speeding the transition of each to a market economy.

The OECD commits itself to country reviews of the type it carries out every year or so for its 24 full members, and will provide technical assistance to back the reforms it recommends.

India swaps 20 tonnes of gold to raise cash

NEW DELHI (R) — India, in desperate need of foreign exchange, has swapped 20 tonnes of gold to Zurich for \$240 million, bankers and diplomats said Tuesday.

The transactions took place in the last week of May and are described as a "gold swap" by diplomats and banking sources in Bombay who were involved in the transactions.

India is putting up the gold as loan collateral and has the option of buying it back later at world market prices plus interest on the money said a banker who did not want to be named.

Trade sources in Bombay said India was preparing to swap at least another 10 tonnes of gold abroad.

Officials in the caretaker government of Prime Minister Chandrababu Naidu declined to comment on the reports.

India, whose credit rating has plummeted because of dwindling foreign exchange reserves, spiralling foreign debt, and political uncertainties — especially after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination — has found it all but impossible to borrow money abroad lately.

Foreign exchange reserves in mid-May were 26.2 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion) against 32.4 billion rupees a year ago.

India's foreign debt as of March 1990 was \$70 billion. But about \$4 billion of that is fast-revolving, short-term debt on which India is scrambling to avoid default.

The country has a tremendous appetite for gold, particularly the jewellery industry, and a huge stockpile of confiscated bullion.

The Bombay Bullion Association estimates 200 tonnes of gold were smuggled into the country from January 1990 to March 1991.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the central bank, usually sells the confiscated gold to the bullion industry, which boasts 300,000 goldsmiths.

The Western diplomat said the government does not need permission from the president to sell confiscated gold, as it would if RBI were to sell official gold reserves.

President Ramaswamy Venkatarman has said the caretaker government of Shekhar cannot take any major policy decisions until after the mid-June elections.

Standard and Poor's Corp said on May 30, the day India sold gold in Zurich, that it had lowered India's debt ratings to BB-plus from BBB-minus for long-term senior debt — its second such downgrading in less than a year.

The U.S.-based rating company said the change — which takes India's credit rating from "investment grade" to "speculative grade" — reflects the heightened risk that the government will not be able to quickly take steps to overcome external liquidity and payments problems.

OPEC aims to nudge oil prices higher by keeping output steady

VIENNA (R) — OPEC decided to freeze its output ceiling at current levels for the next three months, expecting rising demand to nudge oil prices gradually higher towards its target of \$21 a barrel.

Stymied by Saudi Arabia's refusal to endorse production cuts that could quickly propel prices higher, OPEC chose a patient approach to achieving its elusive goal.

"Some are not too happy with the outcome but will go along," Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia told reporters.

Three of the group's 13 members wanted to cut production in the third quarter. Dr. Subroto said, but eventually agreed with the majority's wish to extend the current ceiling of 22.3 million barrels per day (b/d). He did not name the reluctant ones.

Slashing production would have joined the market, he said, but keeping output unchanged would nurture demand.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisbani Nazer often cites the same argument. He said as the conference began that the kingdom supported OPEC's \$21 target price, but would not starve the world's oil markets to achieve that goal.



Subroto

"We have always felt that we will support \$21 but we never said that we will force that on the market by a deliberate creation of shortage," Sheikh Nazer told reporters.

Saudi Arabia emerged from the chaos of the Gulf war as OPEC's powerhouse. It now pumps around eight million barrels per day, more than a third of OPEC's total output.

Luring business back to the market after last year's crisis-spawned price shock remains a key objective for OPEC if prices are to recover.

The average price for a basket of seven OPEC crudes is now more than \$3 below the level OPEC desires.

"We foresee a small increase in the price" as the market responds to the renewed 22.3 million b/d cap, Dr. Subroto said after the group's first one-day conference in more than a decade.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters he expected prices to rise \$1 or \$2 if all OPEC members stick to the agreement.

"Until September we have no problem," Mr. Aqazadeh said.

Indonesian Oil Minister Gintjar Kartasasmita was more bullish. "We will see prices go up and well soon see the \$21 which we are all aiming for," he said.

Markets mostly shrugged off the OPEC news, which had been widely expected, and instead focused on rising stocks of oil to push prices down around 20 cents a barrel.

OPEC postponed until September any decision about output in the fourth quarter, when demand traditionally rises with the onset of the northern hemisphere's winter.

The pause also bought ministers time to gauge the status of United Nations economic sanctions imposed against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait and progress in Kuwait's struggle to resume exports from its oilfields.

OECD farm subsidies soared to \$299b in '90

PARIS (R) — Subsidies to farmers in leading industrialised countries rose to \$299 billion last year, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the cost of supporting farmers' incomes rose 12 per cent in 1990, largely because member countries failed to adopt meaningful reforms. It reversed a two-year downward trend.

Despite pledges to overhaul agricultural subsidy programmes, the 24 OECD member states have made limited progress since 1987 towards farm policy reform, the report said.

"Reform cannot be repeatedly postponed without severe economic consequences, because structural surpluses always reemerge, following periods of temporary respite," it said.

Farmers in OECD countries receive much of their income either through government payments that prop up commodity prices or prices that are kept artificially high through import barriers or other schemes. But the report did not say whether farmers' incomes rose or fell in 1990.

The annual OECD report on farm subsidy programmes, including price supports, import barriers and export subsidies, said the drop in spending in 1988 and 1989 was temporary, largely caused by a U.S. drought which slashed surplus grain stocks.

The thrust of farm programmes in OECD member countries, including the United States and European Community, remained mostly the same. Japan made some progress in cutting band-aids but still remained one of the heaviest subsidisers.

The think tank said that given countries' reluctance to reverse policies that stimulate overproduction and low world prices, the outlook through 1995 is for increased supplies, especially of feed grains and beef, and intense competition among exporters for world market share.

Current circumstances, including increased food-aid needs, food distribution problems in the Soviet Union and environmental concerns, threaten the reform process, the report said.

It said a failed Uruguay Round will mean lower rates of growth in world trade and national income, more risk of regional trading blocs and discriminatory bilateral pacts.

It would also lead to growing trade tensions and continued reluctance to open markets to developing countries and to the central and western Europe countries.

Bulgaria hikes fuel prices

SOFIA (R) — The Bulgarian government Tuesday announced fuel price increases of between 70 and 113 per cent in what Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Tomov described as a bid to encourage Western companies to export to the country.

A litre of super petrol will in future cost 7.20 leva (40 cents) compared to the previous price of 3.80 leva (21 cents). Diesel fuel was raised to 4.40 leva (24 cents) a litre compared with three leva (16 cents).

Electricity and coal prices will go up by 70 per cent and the cost of natural gas will rise by 113 per cent.

Mr. Tomov said the government would maintain control over fuel prices and 14 other basic food products, such as meat, bread and milk.

"The new petrol prices will give a lot of Western firms the possibility to import petrol to Bulgaria, because they are in line with international prices," he told a news conference.

"We already have many candidates who are ready to sell hundreds of thousands of tonnes of fuel in Bulgaria," he added. "This is the end of the queues outside our petrol stations."

Trusthouse Forte shortens name

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's biggest hotel group Trusthouse Forte shortened its corporate name to Forte, and rebranded all its companies under a new logo.

Forte in Latin means strength and that is the aim of the rebranding scheme.

This move, costing £16 million, was made to expand international markets — particularly overseas — increase awareness of the company, and improve cross-selling within the group.

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Data shows Swiss economy in recession

ZURICH (R) — Official data has shown the Swiss economy was in recession and independent economists said an expected recovery in the second half of this year now seemed less certain.

Government data showed gross domestic product (GDP) fell 2.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1991 after a revised 1.6 per cent drop in the final quarter of last year. Two successive quarters of economic contraction is the standard definition of a recession.

"We are going through a classic recession and I'm not convinced we've seen the worst," Bank Julius Baer economist Hans Kaufmann said.

Analysts who expected the Swiss economy to recover in the second half of 1991 as a downturn in inflation led to lower interest rates now say those forecasts may have been optimistic.

Swiss National Bank (SNB) President Markus Lusser said in April the economy would remain weak in coming months, but there could be no major relaxation of monetary policy. He said the SNB believed the economy would stagnate in 1991 as a whole.

The central bank said late last year it would aim to ease monetary policy gradually but its priority was to fight inflation.

"The second quarter GDP will show no improvement from the first. The question is no longer when are we going to enter a recession, but how long will it last? Bank Julius Baer's Kaufmann said.

Swiss Bank Corp. economist John Noorlander said his bank had already revised its forecast for overall 1991 GDP downward to a 0.2 per cent decline.

"The Swiss economy is in recession and the outlook is negative for the second half of the year. We now see a slow recovery in the fourth quarter," he said.

The SNB says Swiss inflation is tending downward but there will be another jump in the consumer price index (CPI) for May, due out next week.

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Lithuania criticises Soviet report on attack

LONDON (R) — Lithuania has criticised a disinformation report by Moscow vindicating use of Soviet troops in a bloody suppression of pro-independence demonstrators in Lithuania's capital Vilnius in January.

The Lithuanian prosecutor-general, in a statement Tuesday night, said more than 1,000 witnesses had confirmed that, in storming Vilnius's television centre, Soviet troops used automatic weapons and tank fire, killing 13 civilians.

"The military units arrived at the television buildings, in accordance with a previously laid-out and meticulously worked-out plan, which was aimed at overthrowing the legal parliament and the government of Lithuania," said the statement, read on Lithuania Radio, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

It referred to a report by Moscow's prosecutor-general on Monday that exonerated the Soviet troops from blame. "The report by prosecutor (Nikolay) Trubin is viewed as an attempt to disinform the USSR parliament and the world public," it said.

The attack on the television centre in the Baltic Republic, which is seeking independence, was widely condemned by Western governments.

Meanwhile Lithuania's vice-president has said the West should not aid the Soviet Union unless Moscow promised to respect the desire of the Baltic states to become independent.

Vice-President Ceslovas Stankevicius, in Poland to attend Pope John Paul's special meeting with Lithuanian religious and political leaders Wednesday, told reporters Tuesday.

"The time has come for concrete decisions. One of these decisions is to give or not to give the money and at the same time to help or not to help the Baltic states..."

Asked if the West should set conditions for Soviet requests for aid, he said:

"If in giving money to the Soviet Union the West does not make clear its position on the situation in the Baltic states, (the money) will be used against the Baltic states by force."

Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Zigmantas Vaisiula added: "We want concrete guarantees from the Soviet side protecting the Baltic states."

Moscow has asked for an invitation to the July meeting in London of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised democracies.

It allowed to attend, President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to ask for aid to help revive the Soviet Union's crippled economy.

The G-7 countries have not yet agreed on a formal invitation to Gorbachev although several of the group's leaders have said they expect he will be invited.

Stankevicius is leading a delegation to Poland to attend Papal services in Lomza, about 130 kilometres from the Soviet border.

President Vytautas Landsbergis cancelled his trip to Poland to see the Pope because of tensions at home. He was to have had lunch with the Pope Tuesday and attend the special meeting for Lithuanians.

In Washington, the United States on Tuesday criticised a Soviet show of force in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, saying it would raise tensions in the breakaway Baltic republic.

"We do not understand how this latest display of force can be consistent with the expressed intentions of Moscow to avoid violence," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"We continue to urge that all outstanding issues between Lithuania and Moscow be settled by good faith negotiations, that measures be taken to prevent incidents of this kind in order to lower tensions and actively pursue peaceful negotiations," she said.

Tutwiler also criticised the Soviet report, saying the State Department "found the conclusions... to be at odds with facts as has widely been reported."

The United States never recognised the Soviet incorporation of Lithuania and the two other Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia in 1940 under the terms of a secret pact with Nazi Germany.

In a separate development, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday condemned armed intervention in the Baltic republics and warned that renegade commanders could launch future attacks.

"I am against all use of force and believe using force is not necessary in the Baltic states," Shevardnadze told a news conference in Paris.

"(Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev said he was not involved when such interventions took place in the past in Lithuania and Estonia," said Shevardnadze, who was launching the French-language version of his autobiography.

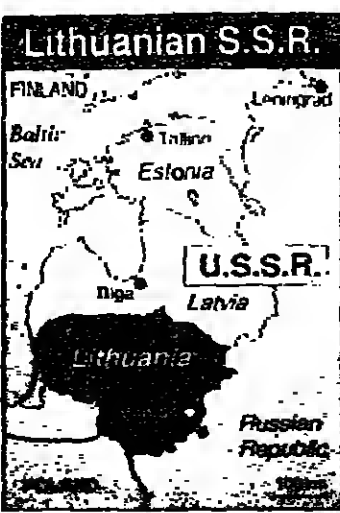
"It is good that Gorbachev did not participate in those actions, but it is also very dangerous if he was not aware they were taking place because garrison commanders elsewhere could also decide on their own to take such decisions," he said.

"The (army officers) could decide on repressive measures... and this alarms Soviet citizens," said Shevardnadze, who resigned last year, saying there were threats of a return to dictatorship in his country.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was "on the verge of chaos, even of anarchy," and called on rival politicians to unite to bring peace to the country. Shevardnadze also said he was willing to mediate between the rival Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Georgian president to meet Bush

Newly elected Georgian Pres-



Lithuanian S.S.R.

dent Zviad Gamsakhurdia will meet with U.S. President George Bush in late June, Soviet media reported Tuesday.

Shortly after he was elected president of the secessionist republic on May 26, Gamsakhurdia, had pledged to meet Bush and other Western leaders.

"I think the civilised world will help us now to strengthen the results of our fight," Gamsakhurdia had said after his victory.

Pope expresses support for Lithuanian independence

LOMZA, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul held an emotional meeting with Lithuanians Wednesday and expressed cautious support for self-determination for the Soviet Baltic republic.

The Pontiff said his historic visit to the Soviet Union was drawing closer.

"Lithuania, I hear your voice," the Pope said at a prayer service with Lithuanian Catholics in Lomza, about 130 kilometres from the Soviet border.

"I believe my Lomza meeting with Lithuanians will bring closer the day when Lithuania will be on my papal pilgrimage trail," he said.

Pope John Paul was in Lomza on the fifth day of a visit to his homeland that has brought him closer than ever before to the Soviet Union.

Several thousand Lithuanians, some dressed in traditional costume, repeatedly interrupted him in the town's Gothic cathedral as he read parts of his address in Lithuanian.

Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius, Archbishop of Vilnius, emotionally invited the Pope to visit his country.

With tears in his eyes, the 60-year-old cardinal said: "We are inviting you and we are waiting for you to visit us."

Sladkevicius, the Soviet Union's only Roman Catholic cardinal, said he hoped the Pope would come next year.

Lithuanian Vice-President Ceslovas Stankevicius and two ministers of the breakaway republic met the Pope privately beforehand to discuss their country's situation.

"In his talks with us the holy father underscored the fact that all countries have the right to self-determination, especially those who have lost their independence," Stankevicius told reporters.

He said the Pope had not given any specific guidance on how predominantly Catholic Lithuania should proceed in its independence bid.

But the vice-president said he had "fully satisfied" with his talks with the Pope.

NATO, hoping to chart new course, struggles with France

COPENHAGEN (R) — NATO foreign ministers, hoping to chart a new political course for the alliance at a meeting in Copenhagen starting Thursday, must first overcome differences with France on plans for the post-cold war era.

Ministers from the 16-nation Western alliance, meeting for two days of talks, are likely to agree on extending political and military contacts with their former Warsaw Pact enemies, giving NATO a wider political role in building a new Europe.

They will also discuss the tricky question of how to create a stronger European defence identity without alienating the United States, NATO's senior member, as Washington prepares to withdraw many of its 320,000-strong forces from Europe.

But France, which left the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) military structure in 1966 and resents U.S. leadership, wants to see NATO's role limited and has been fiercely critical of its new plans.

"France is isolated... there is a conflict," Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the meeting's host, told reporters Tuesday.

"We all want to see France brought closer into NATO cooperation, but if the price for that is the weakening of our ties with the United States, we will not pay it," he said.

"NATO must be the foundation for collective security in the Europe of the future."

NATO officials say the Copenhagen meeting will be a vital "building block" for an alliance summit later this year.

The foreign ministers will fix a

date for the summit, which will give official blessing to a blueprint for NATO's future. It is expected to be held in Rome in late October or November.

But officials are hoping there will be no repeat of the previous foreign ministers' meeting last December, when France threatened to walk out during a discussion on whether the alliance should have more contacts with Eastern Europe.

Paris says it would prefer to see those contacts run on a bilateral level or by the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It says NATO should be satisfied with defending the West against Soviet military power.

But most other alliance nations, led by the United States, want to draw their former enemies, including the Soviet Union, into a "web" of new relationships that will help stabilise the new democracies and smooth the path for economic reforms.

The new package may include more military contacts and cooperation on projects like airspace management, scientific programmes and conversion of defence industries to civil use.

NATO offered regular diplomatic contacts to its former foes after a London summit last year. There has since been a stream of visitors from former Warsaw Pact countries to NATO headquarters.

NATO diplomats now hope to start discussing more concrete issues with those countries, many of whom want closer ties with the alliance since they live in the shadow of an increasingly unstable Soviet Union.

But the alliance, wary of upsetting Soviet hardliners, has repeatedly said there will be no formal security guarantees to Eastern European countries and that they cannot join NATO.

Another divisive issue is the question of whether the European Community (EC) should take on a defence role.

France wants this to be done through the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU), whose members are in both NATO and the Community, acting on orders from the EC.

But many European allies share the United States' view that the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO must not be undermined and the alliance should remain the chief forum for decisions on Western security.

NATO defence ministers agreed last week to reshape the alliance's forces and set up a "rapid reaction" force to face new threats to their territory in Europe.

France, which did not attend that meeting, was upset.

Foreign minister Roland Dumas said Tuesday that NATO had put the cart before the horse by agreeing to reshape its forces without first defining future policy and strategy.

He said it was not France's intention that a purely European defence should undermine NATO, but added that the new "rapid reaction" force would cost the alliance "a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of problems."

"Logic would demand to first define political objectives, then a strategy, and then restructure forces. In this case, it seems the opposite process has been chosen," he said.

De Klerk still optimistic about peace

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. De Klerk, warning against mounting political violence in South Africa, has said a new, non-racial constitution could still be negotiated in time to forestall a whites-only election in 1994.

He told Reuters in an interview Tuesday that South Africa's leaders must cooperate to end violence that has killed 300 people in five weeks and 5,000 since 1987.

"If we don't succeed... through peaceful means and through negotiation to bring the violence to an end... then the violence of the moment is but a forerunner of something much more terrible which will follow," he said.

Businessmen and church leaders including Anglican

Archbishop Desmond Tutu launched a fresh initiative Tuesday to end the township wars waged almost daily with guns, sticks, spears and petrol bombs.

The fighting pits mainly members of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) against followers of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's main rival for support among blacks, who form the country's majority but have no vote.

Seven clergymen and four business leaders said in a statement they had formed a committee to bring leaders of all warring parties together to thrash out a peace settlement.

In a generally optimistic assess-

ment of progress since he legalised the ANC 16 months ago and freed Mandela from a life sentence for fighting apartheid, De Klerk said exclusive white rule could end in time to avoid white elections in 1994.

"The violence is a matter of grave concern. But... apart from that very important negative aspect, things are going quite well in South Africa," he said in his first interview with a foreign news agency since he became president in September 1989.

"There is more hope in the hearts of the overwhelming majority of South Africans than there was two or three years ago because things are happening," he added.

'IRA bombs will not disrupt peace talks'

BELFAST (R) — Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke said bombing attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) would not disrupt talks on the future of the battle-scarred province.

Brooke made the pledge Monday night after Northern Ireland saw a weekend surge of violence.

The IRA killed three soldiers with a bomb last Friday and the British army retaliated Monday by killing three IRA guerrillas.

"I think one of the profoundly encouraging things has been the universal view of all the politicians engaged in this process that if the intention of the terrorists was to blow us off course in this process, they have been singularly unsuccessful," he said.

Brooke, battling to get Protestants and Catholics around a negotiating table, is trying to return Northern Ireland to 17 years of

direct rule from London.

But Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA that is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts, has been excluded from the talks because it refuses to renounce violence.

Fiery Protestant preacher-politician Ian Paisley pledged to keep the talks going "even if one of my party is murdered."

In a major blow to the IRA's guerrilla network, British commandos shot dead three IRA gunmen in an ambush Monday in the County Tyrone village of Coagh.

The victims included Peter Ryan, 47, described by one senior police officer as "a big, big fish" who escaped from a Belfast prison in 1981 and was wanted for questioning over a string of murders of off-duty police and soldiers.

Police believe the three, killed

in a fusillade of 200 shots that raked their stolen car, were about to attack a group of Protestant labourers on their way to work.

The IRA said the three were "on active service." It said that the British shootings were in retaliation for the weekend IRA truck bomb attack on an Ulster Defence Regiment base that killed three soldiers and injured 14 people.

The guerrilla group apologised for blowing up a senior civil servant with a booby-trap under her car, saying it had picked the wrong victim. A member of the security forces living nearby was believed to be the intended target.

Bob Gourley, whose wife Celia had both legs blown off in the blast, said: "I am no Christian. I don't forgive them. To those who apologise I would say come and see a woman fighting for her life. They are hypocrites."

Shuttle roars into space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The shuttle Columbia roared into space Wednesday with seven astronauts and 2,478 jellyfish on an unprecedented quest for answers to the medical mysteries of space travel.

The 100-tonne spaceship blasted off with the four men, three women, 2,478 tiny jellyfish and 29 rats at 9:25 a.m. (1325 GMT). It rose from the pad on a pillar of flame into a overcast sky, then headed out over the Atlantic Ocean.

The twin solid rocket boosters burned for two minutes before falling empty into the Atlantic, where ships waited to pick them up. Columbia continued toward an orbit on the thrust of three main engines.

It was the third launch attempt for the biomedical research mission, postponed twice during the past two weeks by faulty shuttle parts. Low, dense clouds delayed liftoff nearly 1 and 1/2 hours before the clouds lightened enough to permit a safe launch.

Unidentified plane bombs Soviet village, killing 4

MOSCOW (R) — An unidentified plane bombed a Soviet village near the border with Afghanistan Tuesday, killing four people and wounding others, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

The jet fighter was flying along the border early in the morning when it dropped five bombs on the village of Namad-Guti, on the banks of the River Pyandzh.

"Four of the bombs exploded, and as a result four people in the village died. There are wounded," the agency said. It gave no

further details.

The Pyandzh marks the border between Afghanistan and the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah is locked in a 12-year-old civil war against guerrillas based in Pakistan and Iran.

The last Soviet troops based in Afghanistan withdrew in 1989, nine years after they had intervened to save the Communist government from being overthrown by the rebels.

1 killed, several injured in Madrid bomb blast

MADRID (R) — An Spanish Air Force officer was killed and three teenage girls were among a number of others injured when a bomb exploded early Wednesday in a southern Madrid suburb, police said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast but police suspected the Basque separatist group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), which is believed to have been behind a car-bomb last week near Barcelona.

The victim of the Madrid blast, identified as Air Force Lieutenant Enrique Aguilar Prieto, was blown up when he started his car just before 9.00 a.m. (0700 GMT) in the working class suburb of Alcala.

Police said up to five people were also injured in the blast, which completely destroyed the vehicle.

Eyewitnesses said the bomb exploded just 25 metres from a school that was closed at the time.

First police reports suggested 52-year-old Aguilar died in a car-bomb explosion but some eye-witnesses said the bomb was

thrown from a car travelling in the opposite direction.

The explosion came just a week after a car-bomb attack against a civil guard barracks in the Catalan town of Vic, near Barcelona, which killed nine people and injured dozens of others.

The victims of last week's explosion included three small girls and two teenagers, sparking outrage across Spain. Several thousand people took part in a rally Sunday called by the Barcelona authorities to condemn the attack.

Acting on a tip-off, police last Thursday raided a house near Barcelona and arrested five people. Two others, believed to have organised the ETA commando group in Barcelona responsible for the attack in Vic, were killed in a shootout at the house.

Herri Batasuna (HB), ETA's political wing, Wednesday condemned police action in last Thursday's raid, which it described as an act of vengeance.

ETA has killed 665 people in its 23-year campaign of violence for Basque independence.

Albania appoints new premier

VIENNA (R) — Albanian President Ramiz Alia Wednesday named Ylli Bufi as prime minister, officials said in the Albanian capital Tirana.

Bufi, currently minister of food, will head a multi-party caretaker government to lead the country into new elections.

The appointment follows the resignation of the Communist government headed by Fatos Nano Tuesday under an all-party deal aimed at ending a 20-day general strike that has crippled Albania, Europe's poorest country.

Bufi, an engineer aged around 40, will have five days to choose a new coalition government that will run the country until fresh elections next May or June.

Nano, appointed in early May after a Communist landslide in Albania's first free elections for nearly half a century, stepped down citing lack of political support and the strike supported by some 350,000 workers.

Bufi, like his predecessor, is a member of the Communist Party of Labour (PLA) that has ruled the country for over 40 years.

However, under a deal hammered out between political parties and independent trade unions, members of the new administration will be detached from their parties during the life of the government.

The deal followed an agreement in principle among political parties last Saturday to work together to resolve the deep political and economic crisis gripping the country as it emerges from decades of Stalinism.

News of the government's resignation Tuesday prompted some 100 coal miners to end an 11-day hunger strike underground that had left some of them in serious condition.

However union sources said the general strike in press for better working and social conditions would continue until the new government was announced and began talks with the independent federation of trade union, which called it.

Diplomatic sources contacted in Tirana said the decision by the Party of Labour to accept a caretaker government appeared to be a victory for moderates inside the party.

The PLA won two thirds of the 250 parliamentary seats in the elections two months ago.

U.N. chief urges world climate treaty for 1992

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — On World Environment Day, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar urged the adoption of a worldwide treaty on climatic change to control the greenhouse effect and avoid disastrous effects from global warming.

June 5 was celebrated as World Environment Day since 1972, when it was the opening day of a 112-nation Stockholm conference on human damage to the environment that threatens the survival of humanity.

In a message prepared for Wednesday's anniversary, Perez de Cuellar said "the effects of a global warming that would destroy the balance of nature would be truly disastrous."

"Increased sea levels resulting from melting polar ice caps would inundate low-lying coastal areas and obliterate entire island states. Rainfall patterns would be altered, increasing the frequency of floods and drought."

"Famine levels would be pushed even higher than the already crisis proportions in sub-Saharan Africa. Tropical storms, such as the recent tragedy of

Bangladesh, might become more frequent and more severe," Perez de Cuellar said.

"Despite uncertainty as to the rate of global warming, decisive precautionary measures are urgently needed," he said.

Perez de Cuellar urged the nations of the world to adopt an international convention on climate change in 1992 when they meet in Brazil for the U.N. conference on environment and development.

"This first step toward an international climate regime should contain specific commitments for stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and conserving forests," he said.

The United States, which produces more atmosphere-warming carbon dioxide than any other nation, has opposed setting specific target goals for limiting CO2 gas.

China, which relies on coal to fuel its development, is also wary of limits on CO2 emissions.

At an evening ceremony in the General Assembly hall, the first annual Earth prize will be

sawarded Wednesday to Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting Co.; UNICEF Executive Director James Grant; Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari; and Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Turner and Grant will be present to receive the award from the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). Mrs. Brundtland and Salinas will receive their prizes later.

UNEP will also announce a new round of winners of its Global 500 Award Programme, which was inaugurated in 1984 to recognise pioneers in environmental planning and conservation.

Forty-nine individuals from 29 nations will be honoured this year. Among them are:

—Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who founded the World Wildlife Fund in 1961;

—Jim Brandenburg of Minnesota, formerly a National Geographic Magazine photographer, now director of Wolf Ridge, America's premier environmental learning centre;

who has worked with numerous international and U.N. environmental agencies over the years and drafted the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act;

—Robert Glenn Ketchum, an artist, author, photographer and teacher. He was curator of photography for the National Park Foundation from 1980-1989, and wrote the Tongass: Alaska's Vanishing Rainforest, which Mobilised broad support for passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act in the U.S. Congress.

—Peter Matthiessen of Sagaponack, New York, author of Wildlife in America, the first book to document the environmental health of the United States. He has also written Indian Country and The Spirit of Crazy Horse, about injustices suffered by native Americans.

—Starkist Seafood Co. of Long Beach, California, the world's largest tuna canner, for using fishing techniques that prevent the killing of dolphins. This policy made 75 per cent of the canned tuna in the U.S. market "dolphin safe."

COLUMN

Julia Roberts named best, sexiest actress

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pretty Woman star Julia Roberts was named the nation's best and sexiest actress in a poll on American tastes, while Kevin Costner was voted best actor and Patrick Swayze was picked the sexiest male star. The poll, conducted for Entertainment Weekly magazine by the Gallup Organisation, rated the Oscar-winning movie Dances With Wolves as the best film. Country Crooner Garth Brooks was voted best male singer, leaving Frank Sinatra in fourth behind country singers Randy Travis and George Strait. Whitney Houston was rated top female singer. Gallup surveyed 900 people nationwide by telephone in May. The magazine did not give numerical results of the poll. TV comedienne Roseanne Barr was the no. 1 choice of respondents asked: "Who's the person you would least like to take a very long ride with?"

Japan firm makes musical bra

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese lingerie firm seeking a fitting way to mark Mozart's bicentenary year has come up with a musical bra. "When you hook it up, it plays about 20 seconds of a Mozart variation," a spokeswoman for Triumph International Japan said. The front-fastening brassiere contains the sort of minute memory chip used in musical greetings cards, Triumph said. A tiny speaker is fastened under the armpit. The bra, in indigo blue with a musical staff motif repeated on matching panties, is studded with tiny lights that flash when the music plays. There is only one drawback for the fashion-conscious lover of the great Austrian composer, who died 200 years ago this year. "Since it involves electronic devices, it's no good for regular use. It can't be washed," the Triumph spokeswoman said. Because of this Triumph have made only five of the bras, which they intend to give away at a Tokyo trade show this week, she said. "There will be a draw if too many people apply." One of the Triumph group's largest factories is in Austria.

Liz Taylor announces AIDS benefits, auctions

NEW YORK (R) — A fit and trim Elizabeth Taylor has appeared at Christie's auction house to announce two jewellery auctions and two dinner-dances to benefit AIDS research. Wearing a purple wrap-around dress, Taylor posed for photographs and told an onslaught of journalists that she was honorary chairperson for the events, which would raise money for the American Foundation For AIDS Research (AMFAR). "We must never concede defeat," said Taylor, who has led the U.S. entertainment industry's fight against AIDS. Taylor said the world donate the first item for auction, a five-strand pearl choker with diamonds and rubies given to her by "someone very dear to me." The auctions will take place on Nov. 24 at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, and next April 13 at Christie's auction house in New York. The dinner-dances will take place in the fall and spring. Together the four events are expected to raise \$3 million.

Clerk's mistake turns couple into millionaires

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — A store clerk's mistake has turned Carol and Margaret Majors into Florida lotto millionaires. The St. Cloud couple claimed their \$11.2 million jackpot from the May 18 drawing. Lottery officials said Monday. Majors said he bought the ticket at a convenience store in